

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,060

2
00:00:06,060 --> 00:00:09,630
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:09,630 --> 00:00:17,370
interview with Mr. Bob Levine on
April 30, 2017 in Teaneck, New

4
00:00:17,370 --> 00:00:19,030
Jersey.

5
00:00:19,030 --> 00:00:21,630
Thank you very, very
much, Mr. Levine,

6
00:00:21,630 --> 00:00:23,640
for agreeing to
speak with us today

7
00:00:23,640 --> 00:00:27,270
and to share your
extraordinary experiences.

8
00:00:27,270 --> 00:00:28,350
My pleasure.

9
00:00:28,350 --> 00:00:31,260
I am going to start the
interview with the most

10
00:00:31,260 --> 00:00:32,640
basic questions.

11
00:00:32,640 --> 00:00:34,450
And from there, we'll
build the story.

12
00:00:34,450 --> 00:00:35,220

- Good.

13

00:00:35,220 --> 00:00:38,490

So can you tell me, what
was your name at birth?

14

00:00:38,490 --> 00:00:42,690

Robert M, for Michael, Levine.

15

00:00:42,690 --> 00:00:43,530

OK.

16

00:00:43,530 --> 00:00:45,420

What is the date of your birth?

17

00:00:45,420 --> 00:00:49,140

June 4, 1925.

18

00:00:49,140 --> 00:00:50,850

And where were you born?

19

00:00:50,850 --> 00:00:53,160

In The Bronx, New York City.

20

00:00:53,160 --> 00:00:54,840

And did you grow
up in The Bronx?

21

00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:57,233

Yes, I grew up in The Bronx.

22

00:00:57,233 --> 00:00:58,650

Did you have
brothers and sisters?

23

00:00:58,650 --> 00:01:02,940

I have one sister,
Miriam, three years older

24

00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:05,970

than I, who since passed.

25

00:01:05,970 --> 00:01:06,750

OK.

26

00:01:06,750 --> 00:01:09,420

So she was born in 1922?

27

00:01:09,420 --> 00:01:10,380

Mm-hmm.

28

00:01:10,380 --> 00:01:13,020

And what are your mother
and father's names?

29

00:01:13,020 --> 00:01:16,500

My mother's name is
Augusta Kornbluth.

30

00:01:16,500 --> 00:01:17,160

Kornbluth.

31

00:01:17,160 --> 00:01:17,880

Kornbluth.

32

00:01:17,880 --> 00:01:18,570

OK.

33

00:01:18,570 --> 00:01:22,120

And my dad, Sidney S Levine.

34

00:01:22,120 --> 00:01:23,940

OK.

35

00:01:23,940 --> 00:01:26,460

Can you tell me, were your
parents born in the United

36

00:01:26,460 --> 00:01:27,270

States?

37

00:01:27,270 --> 00:01:28,590

My father, yes.

38
00:01:28,590 --> 00:01:31,780
My mother was Austrian
at birth, came here

39
00:01:31,780 --> 00:01:34,050
at a very, very young age.

40
00:01:34,050 --> 00:01:36,190
Do you know about
what year she came?

41
00:01:36,190 --> 00:01:37,170
No.

42
00:01:37,170 --> 00:01:40,070
I know she was only
three or four years old.

43
00:01:40,070 --> 00:01:40,890
OK.

44
00:01:40,890 --> 00:01:43,170
So it must have been the
late part of the 19th

45
00:01:43,170 --> 00:01:44,865
or the early part
of the 20th century.

46
00:01:44,865 --> 00:01:45,420
OK.

47
00:01:45,420 --> 00:01:45,940
Something like that.

48
00:01:45,940 --> 00:01:46,590
Agreed.

49
00:01:46,590 --> 00:01:47,520
Yeah.

50

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:49,385

And your father was
born here actually.

51

00:01:49,385 --> 00:01:50,040

Yes.

52

00:01:50,040 --> 00:01:53,520

So did his parents come
from somewhere else?

53

00:01:53,520 --> 00:01:55,500

Bialystock, Poland.

54

00:01:55,500 --> 00:01:57,460

Bialystock, Poland.

55

00:01:57,460 --> 00:02:00,340

Were they alive when you
were born, his parents?

56

00:02:00,340 --> 00:02:01,970

His father.

57

00:02:01,970 --> 00:02:02,640

OK.

58

00:02:02,640 --> 00:02:06,010

What were their names,
if you remember?

59

00:02:06,010 --> 00:02:09,210

Well, his name is
Samuel, and I can't

60

00:02:09,210 --> 00:02:11,430

remember my grandmother's name.

61

00:02:11,430 --> 00:02:13,350

I called her something
else, I think.

62

00:02:13,350 --> 00:02:15,780

Was she alive when you were born, your grandmother,

63

00:02:15,780 --> 00:02:17,790

your father's mother?

64

00:02:17,790 --> 00:02:18,640

I assume.

65

00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:19,800

I think so, yes.

66

00:02:19,800 --> 00:02:21,270

But you have no memory of her.

67

00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:21,540

No.

68

00:02:21,540 --> 00:02:22,040

No.

69

00:02:22,040 --> 00:02:22,800

OK.

70

00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:28,030

And your mother's parents, were they alive when you were born?

71

00:02:28,030 --> 00:02:29,810

No.

72

00:02:29,810 --> 00:02:32,510

Here again, I couldn't tell you.

73

00:02:32,510 --> 00:02:33,590

OK.

74

00:02:33,590 --> 00:02:36,290

So of the four grandparents, it's

75
00:02:36,290 --> 00:02:38,510
your paternal grandfather--

76
00:02:38,510 --> 00:02:41,840
Grandfather was the only one I
really was involved with, yes.

77
00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:46,010
And did he live close to you,
close to your own family?

78
00:02:46,010 --> 00:02:48,770
He lived with an aunt
in Brooklyn, yeah.

79
00:02:48,770 --> 00:02:50,150
He lived in Brooklyn.

80
00:02:50,150 --> 00:02:51,260
My father's sister, yes.

81
00:02:51,260 --> 00:02:52,430
OK.

82
00:02:52,430 --> 00:02:57,080
And was he a storyteller?

83
00:02:57,080 --> 00:02:58,370
Not really, no.

84
00:02:58,370 --> 00:03:03,140
So did he-- so you didn't know
much about life in Bialystok?

85
00:03:03,140 --> 00:03:04,220
No.

86
00:03:04,220 --> 00:03:05,660
I just knew the name, that's it.

87

00:03:05,660 --> 00:03:06,950
OK.

88
00:03:06,950 --> 00:03:08,930
It's in Eastern Poland.

89
00:03:08,930 --> 00:03:10,010
It's in Eastern Poland.

90
00:03:10,010 --> 00:03:10,510
Yes.

91
00:03:10,510 --> 00:03:13,580
I know it's-- yeah.

92
00:03:13,580 --> 00:03:17,990
And did your father
have other siblings

93
00:03:17,990 --> 00:03:19,940
besides that one sister?

94
00:03:19,940 --> 00:03:20,660
Has a brother.

95
00:03:20,660 --> 00:03:22,640
Had a brother, Arthur.

96
00:03:22,640 --> 00:03:24,650
He lives near us.

97
00:03:24,650 --> 00:03:26,060
And the sister's name was?

98
00:03:26,060 --> 00:03:27,640
Harriet-- Henrietta.

99
00:03:27,640 --> 00:03:28,740
Henrietta.

100
00:03:28,740 --> 00:03:29,750

Henrietta.

101
00:03:29,750 --> 00:03:33,620
Your parents, what language
did they speak with each other?

102
00:03:33,620 --> 00:03:34,220
English.

103
00:03:34,220 --> 00:03:34,800
English.

104
00:03:34,800 --> 00:03:35,300
OK.

105
00:03:35,300 --> 00:03:38,432
Did they know Yiddish?

106
00:03:38,432 --> 00:03:40,270
It wasn't used in the house, no.

107
00:03:40,270 --> 00:03:40,770
No.

108
00:03:40,770 --> 00:03:41,480
OK.

109
00:03:41,480 --> 00:03:42,300
No.

110
00:03:42,300 --> 00:03:43,340
All right.

111
00:03:43,340 --> 00:03:48,950
And what neighborhood in The
Bronx did you grow up in?

112
00:03:48,950 --> 00:03:50,960
In West Bronx.

113
00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:52,760

Are you familiar with The Bronx?

114
00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:53,330
Sort of.

115
00:03:53,330 --> 00:03:55,760
But tell me as
much detail as you

116
00:03:55,760 --> 00:03:59,580
remember because somebody will
be who sees this interview.

117
00:03:59,580 --> 00:04:03,380
Well, the address was
1422 Nelson Avenue.

118
00:04:03,380 --> 00:04:04,220
OK.

119
00:04:04,220 --> 00:04:06,188
And it was very close
to Featherbed Lane,

120
00:04:06,188 --> 00:04:06,980
if you're familiar.

121
00:04:06,980 --> 00:04:08,353
Featherbed Lane?

122
00:04:08,353 --> 00:04:09,020
Featherbed Lane.

123
00:04:09,020 --> 00:04:09,520
Mm-mmm.

124
00:04:09,520 --> 00:04:10,340
Don't know it.

125
00:04:10,340 --> 00:04:16,339
And between Featherbed Lane
at and Boscobel Avenue.

126
00:04:16,339 --> 00:04:17,930
Describe the neighborhood to me.

127
00:04:17,930 --> 00:04:20,779

128
00:04:20,779 --> 00:04:23,870
Was it a mixed neighborhood
with Jews and non-Jews

129
00:04:23,870 --> 00:04:26,420
or was it primarily a
Jewish neighborhood?

130
00:04:26,420 --> 00:04:29,600
I would say it was primarily
a Jewish neighborhood.

131
00:04:29,600 --> 00:04:33,530
We happened to be right next
to the public school, which

132
00:04:33,530 --> 00:04:35,250
was very nice.

133
00:04:35,250 --> 00:04:38,340
And with a playground
right there.

134
00:04:38,340 --> 00:04:43,430
And so everything within walking
distance, which was very--

135
00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:49,820
the shopping was a block away on
Boscobel Avenue and Featherbed

136
00:04:49,820 --> 00:04:51,980
Lane.

137
00:04:51,980 --> 00:04:53,210

So it was very convenient.

138
00:04:53,210 --> 00:04:54,980
Very, very convenient.

139
00:04:54,980 --> 00:04:56,950
It was very convenient.

140
00:04:56,950 --> 00:04:59,990
Was the kind of neighborhood
where people knew each other?

141
00:04:59,990 --> 00:05:00,490
Yes.

142
00:05:00,490 --> 00:05:01,260
Yes.

143
00:05:01,260 --> 00:05:01,760
OK.

144
00:05:01,760 --> 00:05:06,350
We had apartment houses
mixed with private homes.

145
00:05:06,350 --> 00:05:10,138
So there was a
different element, yeah.

146
00:05:10,138 --> 00:05:11,470
A mix.

147
00:05:11,470 --> 00:05:15,010
So in the apart-- did you live
in a home, a private home?

148
00:05:15,010 --> 00:05:16,260
Private-- no, apartment house.

149
00:05:16,260 --> 00:05:16,940
OK.

150

00:05:16,940 --> 00:05:19,150

How many stories did your
apartment house have?

151

00:05:19,150 --> 00:05:19,720

Six.

152

00:05:19,720 --> 00:05:21,220

We lived on the second floor.

153

00:05:21,220 --> 00:05:22,090

OK.

154

00:05:22,090 --> 00:05:23,050

OK?

155

00:05:23,050 --> 00:05:24,020

Were you renting?

156

00:05:24,020 --> 00:05:24,520

Yes.

157

00:05:24,520 --> 00:05:25,020

Yes.

158

00:05:25,020 --> 00:05:25,720

OK.

159

00:05:25,720 --> 00:05:26,780

Everything was rental.

160

00:05:26,780 --> 00:05:27,280

Yeah.

161

00:05:27,280 --> 00:05:28,120

OK.

162

00:05:28,120 --> 00:05:31,060

And we played in the street.

163

00:05:31,060 --> 00:05:37,570
And so it was very, very
happy, happy childhood.

164
00:05:37,570 --> 00:05:38,260
Yes.

165
00:05:38,260 --> 00:05:43,240
Did you ever go into Manhattan
or was that a rare occasion?

166
00:05:43,240 --> 00:05:44,090
Rare occasion.

167
00:05:44,090 --> 00:05:45,130
Yeah.

168
00:05:45,130 --> 00:05:46,720
Kind of some special trips.

169
00:05:46,720 --> 00:05:49,940

170
00:05:49,940 --> 00:05:52,370
No, you just hung around,
hung around the neighborhood.

171
00:05:52,370 --> 00:05:54,380
OK.

172
00:05:54,380 --> 00:05:56,150
Were your parents
very religious?

173
00:05:56,150 --> 00:05:57,110
No.

174
00:05:57,110 --> 00:05:57,620
OK.

175
00:05:57,620 --> 00:06:00,650
My parents came from

the Lower East Side

176
00:06:00,650 --> 00:06:05,540
and grew up in around
a settlement house

177
00:06:05,540 --> 00:06:07,110
called Christodora House.

178
00:06:07,110 --> 00:06:07,610
OK.

179
00:06:07,610 --> 00:06:08,450
Tell me about that.

180
00:06:08,450 --> 00:06:11,470
Christodora House was
a settlement house

181
00:06:11,470 --> 00:06:15,170
run by people from
Princeton University.

182
00:06:15,170 --> 00:06:17,120
Princetonian.

183
00:06:17,120 --> 00:06:22,730
And they were treated
very, very differently.

184
00:06:22,730 --> 00:06:27,770
They had a summer camp
out here in New Jersey.

185
00:06:27,770 --> 00:06:29,690
So they would get
away from the--

186
00:06:29,690 --> 00:06:33,800
and stay at the settlement
house, as they had clubs

187

00:06:33,800 --> 00:06:36,140
and they learned.

188
00:06:36,140 --> 00:06:39,440
They learned all about life.

189
00:06:39,440 --> 00:06:41,690
What was the purpose of
the settlement house?

190
00:06:41,690 --> 00:06:48,170
Just taking immigrant
children and giving them

191
00:06:48,170 --> 00:06:54,230
a chance to become
involved, and they did.

192
00:06:54,230 --> 00:06:58,160
And my mother spoke with an
accent you wouldn't believe.

193
00:06:58,160 --> 00:07:01,340
You would think that she was
graduate of Bryn Mawr College.

194
00:07:01,340 --> 00:07:01,980
Oh, really?

195
00:07:01,980 --> 00:07:02,480
Yeah.

196
00:07:02,480 --> 00:07:06,590
Yeah, because they really
taught them how to speak.

197
00:07:06,590 --> 00:07:08,930
And they had clubs.

198
00:07:08,930 --> 00:07:13,460
My dad was in a club that
they had elections and things

199

00:07:13,460 --> 00:07:14,140
of that nature.

200

00:07:14,140 --> 00:07:16,400
So they learned all the--

201

00:07:16,400 --> 00:07:17,850
So it was beyond school.

202

00:07:17,850 --> 00:07:18,350
It was--

203

00:07:18,350 --> 00:07:20,330
It was beyond school.

204

00:07:20,330 --> 00:07:22,670
It sounds like a place
to integrate kids

205

00:07:22,670 --> 00:07:23,885
into a US society.

206

00:07:23,885 --> 00:07:24,385
Correct.

207

00:07:24,385 --> 00:07:26,150
Into American society.

208

00:07:26,150 --> 00:07:26,750
Yes.

209

00:07:26,750 --> 00:07:31,350
And show them beyond
the world they knew.

210

00:07:31,350 --> 00:07:35,930
And it was definitely not a
Jewish influence, of course.

211

00:07:35,930 --> 00:07:40,280
I had no Jewish influence

at home whatsoever.

212
00:07:40,280 --> 00:07:41,630
I was not bar mitzvahed.

213
00:07:41,630 --> 00:07:42,830
I was not bar mitzvahed.

214
00:07:42,830 --> 00:07:43,640
Oh, really?

215
00:07:43,640 --> 00:07:44,170
Mm-hmm.

216
00:07:44,170 --> 00:07:48,860
So that means were your
parents more or less

217
00:07:48,860 --> 00:07:52,340
purposely secular or did they--

218
00:07:52,340 --> 00:07:53,690
Just by being there.

219
00:07:53,690 --> 00:07:54,560
Just by--

220
00:07:54,560 --> 00:07:55,520
OK.

221
00:07:55,520 --> 00:07:56,510
They had assimilated.

222
00:07:56,510 --> 00:07:57,802
That was just their background.

223
00:07:57,802 --> 00:07:59,190
Yes, that's it.

224
00:07:59,190 --> 00:07:59,690
No.

225
00:07:59,690 --> 00:08:04,850
And we never really went into
any major discussions about it

226
00:08:04,850 --> 00:08:06,335
or conversations about it.

227
00:08:06,335 --> 00:08:07,520
That's just the way we--

228
00:08:07,520 --> 00:08:08,520
that's the way we lived.

229
00:08:08,520 --> 00:08:09,503
Yeah.

230
00:08:09,503 --> 00:08:10,670
What about your grandfather?

231
00:08:10,670 --> 00:08:12,080
Was he very religious?

232
00:08:12,080 --> 00:08:13,550
No.

233
00:08:13,550 --> 00:08:15,080
I doubt that he was--

234
00:08:15,080 --> 00:08:19,895
and my aunt, who he lived
with, there was no real--

235
00:08:19,895 --> 00:08:21,770
but they all came from
the same neighborhood.

236
00:08:21,770 --> 00:08:27,770
So they were all part
of the same background.

237

00:08:27,770 --> 00:08:31,190
As your father was
growing up, his father

238
00:08:31,190 --> 00:08:33,510
brought him up in
the Lower East Side?

239
00:08:33,510 --> 00:08:34,010
Yes.

240
00:08:34,010 --> 00:08:34,510
OK.

241
00:08:34,510 --> 00:08:36,740
And then moved to
Brooklyn later.

242
00:08:36,740 --> 00:08:37,370
That's right.

243
00:08:37,370 --> 00:08:37,730
OK.

244
00:08:37,730 --> 00:08:38,230
Yeah.

245
00:08:38,230 --> 00:08:41,340
My dad went to NYU,
was a college graduate.

246
00:08:41,340 --> 00:08:41,840
OK.

247
00:08:41,840 --> 00:08:43,340
What did he study?

248
00:08:43,340 --> 00:08:48,530
He was in business accounting
and became a major executive

249
00:08:48,530 --> 00:08:51,805

with a company that
was in Brooklyn.

250
00:08:51,805 --> 00:08:53,180
What was the name
of the company?

251
00:08:53,180 --> 00:08:56,000
Consolidated
Lithographic Corporation.

252
00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:57,620
They were printers.

253
00:08:57,620 --> 00:08:59,990
And he was the vice president.

254
00:08:59,990 --> 00:09:04,250
So we had an
interesting background.

255
00:09:04,250 --> 00:09:06,450
Did you ever visit
him at the office?

256
00:09:06,450 --> 00:09:07,100
Oh, yes.

257
00:09:07,100 --> 00:09:09,260
And after college,
I worked there.

258
00:09:09,260 --> 00:09:10,550
Oh, yeah?

259
00:09:10,550 --> 00:09:13,428
So you said a printing business.

260
00:09:13,428 --> 00:09:15,470
What did that mean, being
a little more specific.

261

00:09:15,470 --> 00:09:18,860
They made things
like cigar bands.

262
00:09:18,860 --> 00:09:22,100
Labels for liquor bottles,
that kind of printing.

263
00:09:22,100 --> 00:09:23,360
It was very--

264
00:09:23,360 --> 00:09:23,960
Yeah.

265
00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:24,500
It's--

266
00:09:24,500 --> 00:09:26,430
High-class printing.

267
00:09:26,430 --> 00:09:28,610
Lithography.

268
00:09:28,610 --> 00:09:31,610
And it was a big, big
plant on Morgan Avenue in--

269
00:09:31,610 --> 00:09:33,440
Grant Street and Morgan Avenue.

270
00:09:33,440 --> 00:09:35,345
I just remembered it.

271
00:09:35,345 --> 00:09:37,880
Would be in Williamsburg?

272
00:09:37,880 --> 00:09:39,950
Grant Street I thought
was in Williamsburg.

273
00:09:39,950 --> 00:09:41,040
But I may be wrong.

274
00:09:41,040 --> 00:09:41,700
I may be wrong.

275
00:09:41,700 --> 00:09:43,100
I don't know.

276
00:09:43,100 --> 00:09:45,500
What neighborhood did
your grandfather and aunt

277
00:09:45,500 --> 00:09:48,770
live in in Brooklyn?

278
00:09:48,770 --> 00:09:52,850
Near the-- what's the area
where the Verrazzano Bridge is?

279
00:09:52,850 --> 00:09:53,663
I know.

280
00:09:53,663 --> 00:09:54,830
I don't know the name of it.

281
00:09:54,830 --> 00:09:57,000
Is it Bensonhurst or--

282
00:09:57,000 --> 00:09:58,230
That's a general--

283
00:09:58,230 --> 00:09:58,730
Yeah.

284
00:09:58,730 --> 00:10:00,050
I remember visiting.

285
00:10:00,050 --> 00:10:00,680
OK.

286
00:10:00,680 --> 00:10:01,490
I remember that.

287
00:10:01,490 --> 00:10:04,760

288
00:10:04,760 --> 00:10:07,490
How'd you get there
from The Bronx?

289
00:10:07,490 --> 00:10:08,540
We had a car.

290
00:10:08,540 --> 00:10:09,440
We drove.

291
00:10:09,440 --> 00:10:10,200
You drove.

292
00:10:10,200 --> 00:10:10,760
Mm-hmm.

293
00:10:10,760 --> 00:10:12,470
I bet you had less
traffic than now.

294
00:10:12,470 --> 00:10:13,800
We had less traffic.

295
00:10:13,800 --> 00:10:18,080
[CHUCKLES]

296
00:10:18,080 --> 00:10:19,730
But that's also unusual.

297
00:10:19,730 --> 00:10:22,250
I mean, people in the city
usually didn't have cars.

298
00:10:22,250 --> 00:10:23,300
That's right.

299
00:10:23,300 --> 00:10:27,050

Would you say that
your father was sort of

300
00:10:27,050 --> 00:10:28,940
like a comfortable
middle-class life?

301
00:10:28,940 --> 00:10:30,030
Yes, it was.

302
00:10:30,030 --> 00:10:30,530
OK.

303
00:10:30,530 --> 00:10:31,550
No question.

304
00:10:31,550 --> 00:10:32,540
OK.

305
00:10:32,540 --> 00:10:35,900
Describe a little bit
of your home to me.

306
00:10:35,900 --> 00:10:38,270
You said it was a second
floor of the apartment?

307
00:10:38,270 --> 00:10:40,020
Second-floor apartment, yes.

308
00:10:40,020 --> 00:10:40,700
OK.

309
00:10:40,700 --> 00:10:42,020
How many rooms did it have?

310
00:10:42,020 --> 00:10:43,520
We had two bedrooms.

311
00:10:43,520 --> 00:10:44,180
OK.

312

00:10:44,180 --> 00:10:49,786

And it was very comfortable.

313

00:10:49,786 --> 00:10:52,910

314

00:10:52,910 --> 00:10:57,170

Never had-- never a
want, maybe should I say.

315

00:10:57,170 --> 00:10:58,040

OK.

316

00:10:58,040 --> 00:11:00,650

We had everything
we needed, yeah.

317

00:11:00,650 --> 00:11:02,510

Well, I mean, that's
quite something, given

318

00:11:02,510 --> 00:11:04,710

that you were growing up
during the Depression.

319

00:11:04,710 --> 00:11:06,570

And a lot of people
didn't have work.

320

00:11:06,570 --> 00:11:08,000

Correct.

321

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,320

How did that Depression
show itself in your life?

322

00:11:12,320 --> 00:11:16,610

You know, I was very
young obviously.

323

00:11:16,610 --> 00:11:18,520

The pressure was with

the early '30s, though.

324
00:11:18,520 --> 00:11:19,700
Yeah.

325
00:11:19,700 --> 00:11:22,370
And I was just born in '25.

326
00:11:22,370 --> 00:11:24,040
So I was 7 or 8 years old.

327
00:11:24,040 --> 00:11:24,830
Little boy.

328
00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:26,540
Yeah.

329
00:11:26,540 --> 00:11:31,550
I really can't point
to anything specific.

330
00:11:31,550 --> 00:11:33,740
Well, I mean, were
their neighbors of yours

331
00:11:33,740 --> 00:11:35,100
that were out of work?

332
00:11:35,100 --> 00:11:36,830
Did you know people
in the neighborhood

333
00:11:36,830 --> 00:11:40,137
who were in a bad
way because of it?

334
00:11:40,137 --> 00:11:40,970
I wouldn't say that.

335
00:11:40,970 --> 00:11:41,995
I would not know.

336
00:11:41,995 --> 00:11:42,495
No.

337
00:11:42,495 --> 00:11:42,995
No.

338
00:11:42,995 --> 00:11:43,570
OK.

339
00:11:43,570 --> 00:11:44,210
OK.

340
00:11:44,210 --> 00:11:47,810
But we had a fairly
large apartment house,

341
00:11:47,810 --> 00:11:52,130
and everybody seemed to be OK.

342
00:11:52,130 --> 00:11:52,630
OK.

343
00:11:52,630 --> 00:11:54,297
But there's nothing
I could say to that.

344
00:11:54,297 --> 00:11:54,830
Yeah.

345
00:11:54,830 --> 00:11:56,210
What about your mom?

346
00:11:56,210 --> 00:11:57,710
Was she a homemaker?

347
00:11:57,710 --> 00:11:58,640
She was a homemaker.

348
00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:00,200
OK.

349

00:12:00,200 --> 00:12:03,140

And because of
Christodora House,

350

00:12:03,140 --> 00:12:07,530

they would go away, as I
say, during the summer.

351

00:12:07,530 --> 00:12:10,550

And they were shown
golf and tennis

352

00:12:10,550 --> 00:12:12,080

and things of that nature.

353

00:12:12,080 --> 00:12:14,030

And we were exposed to
those kind of things.

354

00:12:14,030 --> 00:12:15,290

My mother was a golfer.

355

00:12:15,290 --> 00:12:16,250

Oh, was she?

356

00:12:16,250 --> 00:12:20,450

And she would take the
subway with the golf clubs

357

00:12:20,450 --> 00:12:22,340

and go to Van Cortland Park.

358

00:12:22,340 --> 00:12:23,420

Mm-hmm.

359

00:12:23,420 --> 00:12:25,790

And I must tell you
this funny story.

360

00:12:25,790 --> 00:12:31,700

I was in grade school, and
I was kind of a giggler,

361
00:12:31,700 --> 00:12:32,660
making a lot of noise.

362
00:12:32,660 --> 00:12:36,300
And the teacher said, I
want to see your mother.

363
00:12:36,300 --> 00:12:38,030
I said, you can't.

364
00:12:38,030 --> 00:12:39,080
Why not?

365
00:12:39,080 --> 00:12:42,067
She's out on the golf course.

366
00:12:42,067 --> 00:12:43,400
They got a big kick out of that.

367
00:12:43,400 --> 00:12:44,330
Yeah.

368
00:12:44,330 --> 00:12:46,920
Probably was the only time
they heard that excuse.

369
00:12:46,920 --> 00:12:47,420
Absolutely.

370
00:12:47,420 --> 00:12:48,270
Or that reason.

371
00:12:48,270 --> 00:12:51,080
Not too many kids in that
neighborhood could say that.

372
00:12:51,080 --> 00:12:51,580
Yeah.

373
00:12:51,580 --> 00:12:52,080

Yeah.

374
00:12:52,080 --> 00:12:54,780
So I always remember that.

375
00:12:54,780 --> 00:12:58,070
And that's our background.

376
00:12:58,070 --> 00:12:58,570
Yeah.

377
00:12:58,570 --> 00:13:00,250
Did you have a radio at home?

378
00:13:00,250 --> 00:13:02,140
Yes, we had radio.

379
00:13:02,140 --> 00:13:05,350
And what are the kinds of
programs that you'd listen to?

380
00:13:05,350 --> 00:13:09,190

381
00:13:09,190 --> 00:13:09,690
All right.

382
00:13:09,690 --> 00:13:11,130
Jack Benny.

383
00:13:11,130 --> 00:13:12,230
Jack Benny?

384
00:13:12,230 --> 00:13:12,730
Mm-hmm.

385
00:13:12,730 --> 00:13:16,690

386
00:13:16,690 --> 00:13:18,820
I'm just trying to remember.

387
00:13:18,820 --> 00:13:19,320
Oh.

388
00:13:19,320 --> 00:13:22,150

389
00:13:22,150 --> 00:13:24,370
I'm having memory problems.

390
00:13:24,370 --> 00:13:25,070
That's OK.

391
00:13:25,070 --> 00:13:26,180
It happens sometimes.

392
00:13:26,180 --> 00:13:26,680
It happens.

393
00:13:26,680 --> 00:13:29,085
I mean, I know that that's
an unexpected question.

394
00:13:29,085 --> 00:13:31,990

395
00:13:31,990 --> 00:13:34,090
So where did your father go--

396
00:13:34,090 --> 00:13:35,710
how's the car?

397
00:13:35,710 --> 00:13:39,210
If you know, did you have
like a driveway with a garage?

398
00:13:39,210 --> 00:13:40,170
No, no, no.

399
00:13:40,170 --> 00:13:41,260
In the street.

400
00:13:41,260 --> 00:13:41,860
On the street.

401
00:13:41,860 --> 00:13:42,850
OK.

402
00:13:42,850 --> 00:13:46,870
You know, in those early
days, there was no car.

403
00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:48,650
The car came much, much later.

404
00:13:48,650 --> 00:13:49,240
Oh, OK.

405
00:13:49,240 --> 00:13:50,890
Yeah.

406
00:13:50,890 --> 00:13:53,740
After we moved from there, we--

407
00:13:53,740 --> 00:13:54,820
Where did you move to?

408
00:13:54,820 --> 00:13:58,030
We moved to 911
Walton Avenue, which

409
00:13:58,030 --> 00:14:02,440
was on the Grand Concourse,
just on the Grand Concourse.

410
00:14:02,440 --> 00:14:05,590
And right next to
the Yankee Stadium.

411
00:14:05,590 --> 00:14:06,580
Oh, that's good.

412

00:14:06,580 --> 00:14:10,190
And from my apartment
house, I could look down

413
00:14:10,190 --> 00:14:12,760
onto the field in
Yankee Stadium.

414
00:14:12,760 --> 00:14:15,952
And I had a private seat,
my own private seat.

415
00:14:15,952 --> 00:14:17,275
How about that?

416
00:14:17,275 --> 00:14:19,030
Is that lucky?

417
00:14:19,030 --> 00:14:20,210
That's pretty cool.

418
00:14:20,210 --> 00:14:23,290
So those are the years
when I had a lot of fun.

419
00:14:23,290 --> 00:14:25,145
That was my latest
teen-- my teen years.

420
00:14:25,145 --> 00:14:26,920
Your teen years.

421
00:14:26,920 --> 00:14:31,210
That is quite
something, particularly

422
00:14:31,210 --> 00:14:32,350
if you're a young guy.

423
00:14:32,350 --> 00:14:35,410
And you know, who
doesn't like baseball?

424

00:14:35,410 --> 00:14:36,280

That's right.

425

00:14:36,280 --> 00:14:39,847

I had the autographs
of every Yankee.

426

00:14:39,847 --> 00:14:41,180

Too bad I don't have them today.

427

00:14:41,180 --> 00:14:42,850

They're probably
worth a few dollars.

428

00:14:42,850 --> 00:14:45,790

429

00:14:45,790 --> 00:14:48,505

Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth,
all the big names.

430

00:14:48,505 --> 00:14:51,130

431

00:14:51,130 --> 00:14:54,700

Do you have any memories
of grade school, what

432

00:14:54,700 --> 00:14:56,920

your teachers were like,
what the other kids were

433

00:14:56,920 --> 00:15:00,670

like, the subjects
that you liked the most

434

00:15:00,670 --> 00:15:03,940

and that you liked the least?

435

00:15:03,940 --> 00:15:11,680

No, I had a fairly
easy grade school.

436
00:15:11,680 --> 00:15:14,950

437
00:15:14,950 --> 00:15:20,140
What did happen when I
was in the fourth grade,

438
00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:24,770
I was playing in the
street, and I ran--

439
00:15:24,770 --> 00:15:28,810
I fell into the street,
and I was hit by a car.

440
00:15:28,810 --> 00:15:33,640
And my leg was badly broken.

441
00:15:33,640 --> 00:15:35,800
So I had to recuperate
at home for a while.

442
00:15:35,800 --> 00:15:46,000
And I was left back and had a
problem catching up in school.

443
00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

444
00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:50,850
So that made it a little tough.

445
00:15:50,850 --> 00:15:52,510
A little tough, yeah.

446
00:15:52,510 --> 00:15:58,720
So that was my left
leg was broken.

447
00:15:58,720 --> 00:16:00,790
How long did it take to mend?

448
00:16:00,790 --> 00:16:02,110
About a good six months.

449
00:16:02,110 --> 00:16:02,610
Yeah.

450
00:16:02,610 --> 00:16:03,400
Yeah.

451
00:16:03,400 --> 00:16:04,100
That can do it.

452
00:16:04,100 --> 00:16:04,600
Yeah.

453
00:16:04,600 --> 00:16:05,170
Yeah.

454
00:16:05,170 --> 00:16:06,110
That can do it.

455
00:16:06,110 --> 00:16:12,280
And so I had a tutor at
home, but you do fall behind.

456
00:16:12,280 --> 00:16:16,375
And when I came back, I
used to be in the top grade.

457
00:16:16,375 --> 00:16:19,702
And they just dropped me
down to the slow grade.

458
00:16:19,702 --> 00:16:21,160
For a kid, that
makes a difference.

459
00:16:21,160 --> 00:16:25,240
Six, one in three or something.

460

00:16:25,240 --> 00:16:28,150
The numbers for the classes.

461
00:16:28,150 --> 00:16:30,790
So I ended up in the two.

462
00:16:30,790 --> 00:16:33,440
And the two was slow.

463
00:16:33,440 --> 00:16:36,640
However, we managed.

464
00:16:36,640 --> 00:16:37,630
OK.

465
00:16:37,630 --> 00:16:40,840
Tell me a little bit about
your parents' personalities,

466
00:16:40,840 --> 00:16:42,700
you know, what your
father was like,

467
00:16:42,700 --> 00:16:44,350
what your mother was like.

468
00:16:44,350 --> 00:16:52,930
Well, my mother was an outdoor
person, the golfer, a walker,

469
00:16:52,930 --> 00:16:54,410
very athletic.

470
00:16:54,410 --> 00:16:59,320
My father was a tennis
player, very athletic.

471
00:16:59,320 --> 00:17:03,070
And what we did, the
summers were interesting.

472
00:17:03,070 --> 00:17:08,800

We would go away, like to
Kiamesha Lake was a famous--

473
00:17:08,800 --> 00:17:10,329
up in the Catskills.

474
00:17:10,329 --> 00:17:11,160
What is the name?

475
00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:11,660
Kiamesha.

476
00:17:11,660 --> 00:17:12,819
Kiamesha Lake?

477
00:17:12,819 --> 00:17:13,720
Kiamesha Lake.

478
00:17:13,720 --> 00:17:14,410
OK.

479
00:17:14,410 --> 00:17:16,510
And we had a bungalow.

480
00:17:16,510 --> 00:17:20,829
And one of the few people
in the house, and we

481
00:17:20,829 --> 00:17:22,280
would spend the summer.

482
00:17:22,280 --> 00:17:25,150
And my father would
come and commute.

483
00:17:25,150 --> 00:17:28,843
And so we had some interesting--

484
00:17:28,843 --> 00:17:30,010
That's a very nice kind of--

485

00:17:30,010 --> 00:17:32,230
It was an interesting--

486
00:17:32,230 --> 00:17:35,260
for those years, it was an
interesting-- yes, nice.

487
00:17:35,260 --> 00:17:37,960
You know, it almost is
the American equivalent

488
00:17:37,960 --> 00:17:40,900
of how Europeans
would take vacations.

489
00:17:40,900 --> 00:17:44,740
Middle-class families
in Austria and Germany.

490
00:17:44,740 --> 00:17:45,530
Would travel.

491
00:17:45,530 --> 00:17:46,340
They would travel.

492
00:17:46,340 --> 00:17:49,138
They would go to the
mountains for the summer.

493
00:17:49,138 --> 00:17:49,930
That's what we did.

494
00:17:49,930 --> 00:17:51,050
We went to the mountains.

495
00:17:51,050 --> 00:17:51,680
Yeah.

496
00:17:51,680 --> 00:17:52,180
Yeah.

497
00:17:52,180 --> 00:17:56,170

And it was called Kiamesha
Lake in Monticello, New York.

498
00:17:56,170 --> 00:17:57,645
Right near Monticello, New York.

499
00:17:57,645 --> 00:17:59,080
OK.

500
00:17:59,080 --> 00:18:04,750
So we had a very comfortable
and exciting childhood.

501
00:18:04,750 --> 00:18:06,550
And your sister
was also with you?

502
00:18:06,550 --> 00:18:07,150
My sister.

503
00:18:07,150 --> 00:18:10,580
Yes, my sister was
a tennis player.

504
00:18:10,580 --> 00:18:14,440
And she went to Hunter College.

505
00:18:14,440 --> 00:18:16,160
And you, were you
athletic as well?

506
00:18:16,160 --> 00:18:16,660
Yes.

507
00:18:16,660 --> 00:18:17,410
I play tennis.

508
00:18:17,410 --> 00:18:20,080
I was on the tennis
team in high school.

509
00:18:20,080 --> 00:18:24,560

And then, of course,
I went to war.

510
00:18:24,560 --> 00:18:25,060
OK.

511
00:18:25,060 --> 00:18:26,477
We'll talk about
that in a minute.

512
00:18:26,477 --> 00:18:29,730

513
00:18:29,730 --> 00:18:36,600
When the 1930s, in 1933, you
were just a boy, 8 years old.

514
00:18:36,600 --> 00:18:37,500
That's right.

515
00:18:37,500 --> 00:18:40,770
That's when Hitler
comes to power.

516
00:18:40,770 --> 00:18:44,670
Do you remember
anybody at home talking

517
00:18:44,670 --> 00:18:46,050
about what's going away--

518
00:18:46,050 --> 00:18:48,240
what's going on in
that faraway Germany?

519
00:18:48,240 --> 00:18:49,200
Nothing.

520
00:18:49,200 --> 00:18:49,860
Nothing.

521
00:18:49,860 --> 00:18:50,890

Nothing.

522
00:18:50,890 --> 00:18:55,690
There was no--

523
00:18:55,690 --> 00:18:59,970
I'm just wondering when I
first, like, can't remember.

524
00:18:59,970 --> 00:19:00,970
When you heard his name?

525
00:19:00,970 --> 00:19:01,470
Yeah.

526
00:19:01,470 --> 00:19:03,340
Yeah.

527
00:19:03,340 --> 00:19:06,010
And what about
American politics?

528
00:19:06,010 --> 00:19:10,480
Would your parents ever talk
about President Roosevelt

529
00:19:10,480 --> 00:19:15,850
or the policies of the
Depression or things like that?

530
00:19:15,850 --> 00:19:20,110
Well, it wasn't a big item.

531
00:19:20,110 --> 00:19:23,470
I'm just trying to remember
the major discussions.

532
00:19:23,470 --> 00:19:28,360
And by the way, I must
say about my mother,

533
00:19:28,360 --> 00:19:30,524

my mother was a food--

534

00:19:30,524 --> 00:19:32,140
[PHONE RINGING]

535

00:19:32,140 --> 00:19:34,730
We can cut.

536

00:19:34,730 --> 00:19:35,230
OK.

537

00:19:35,230 --> 00:19:37,150
So tell me about your mom.

538

00:19:37,150 --> 00:19:41,080
First of all, about the food.

539

00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:44,470
She was not a food
addict but a food--

540

00:19:44,470 --> 00:19:48,000
anyway, we ate
very healthy foods.

541

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:48,950
OK.

542

00:19:48,950 --> 00:19:51,410
I wasn't allowed to eat this,
wasn't allowed to eat that.

543

00:19:51,410 --> 00:19:51,910
For example.

544

00:19:51,910 --> 00:19:58,240

545

00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:00,700
I can't-- you'll have to tell--

546

00:20:00,700 --> 00:20:01,463
OK.

547
00:20:01,463 --> 00:20:02,380
Hang on just a minute.

548
00:20:02,380 --> 00:20:03,200
Cut.

549
00:20:03,200 --> 00:20:03,790
OK.

550
00:20:03,790 --> 00:20:05,170
OK.

551
00:20:05,170 --> 00:20:08,140
My mother-- oh,
talking about food.

552
00:20:08,140 --> 00:20:08,650
OK.

553
00:20:08,650 --> 00:20:10,470
My mother would make salad.

554
00:20:10,470 --> 00:20:12,370
We had a lot of salad.

555
00:20:12,370 --> 00:20:15,700
And being a golfer, she
was on the golf course.

556
00:20:15,700 --> 00:20:19,900
She would pick up all kinds
of various grasses and things.

557
00:20:19,900 --> 00:20:21,310
And that would become dinner?

558
00:20:21,310 --> 00:20:23,230
And they would become
salad, in the salad.

559

00:20:23,230 --> 00:20:27,520

And I'd say mom, what
hole does that come from?

560

00:20:27,520 --> 00:20:32,860

But she was that-- she was
a very devoted food person.

561

00:20:32,860 --> 00:20:35,320

Well, that is ahead of
her time because that only

562

00:20:35,320 --> 00:20:37,910

became something that was
more conscious-- people

563

00:20:37,910 --> 00:20:39,700

were more conscious
of it decades later.

564

00:20:39,700 --> 00:20:40,360

That's right.

565

00:20:40,360 --> 00:20:42,430

She was way-- she was
way ahead of her time.

566

00:20:42,430 --> 00:20:43,630

That's right.

567

00:20:43,630 --> 00:20:46,510

She marched with the Women's
League for Peace and Freedom.

568

00:20:46,510 --> 00:20:47,190

Oh, did she?

569

00:20:47,190 --> 00:20:48,620

Kind of groups like that.

570

00:20:48,620 --> 00:20:50,530

So she had some
political involvement.

571
00:20:50,530 --> 00:20:52,490
So she was politically
involved, yes.

572
00:20:52,490 --> 00:20:52,990
OK.

573
00:20:52,990 --> 00:20:56,080
And she would go to
all these meetings.

574
00:20:56,080 --> 00:20:58,060
So she had a whole life.

575
00:20:58,060 --> 00:20:59,680
OK.

576
00:20:59,680 --> 00:21:02,060
Was her food tasty
that she prepared?

577
00:21:02,060 --> 00:21:03,520
I ate everything.

578
00:21:03,520 --> 00:21:04,210
OK.

579
00:21:04,210 --> 00:21:06,310
To this day, I clean my plate.

580
00:21:06,310 --> 00:21:06,880
I'm trained.

581
00:21:06,880 --> 00:21:08,710
I'm very well trained.

582
00:21:08,710 --> 00:21:13,180
And off camera, I
heard that she had

583

00:21:13,180 --> 00:21:15,460
something against chewing gum?

584

00:21:15,460 --> 00:21:17,240
I wasn't allowed to--

585

00:21:17,240 --> 00:21:19,140
so I would out--

586

00:21:19,140 --> 00:21:20,290
I forget.

587

00:21:20,290 --> 00:21:25,030
I went out in the street, on
the sidewalks there was gum.

588

00:21:25,030 --> 00:21:28,630
And I would scrape the
gum off the sidewalk.

589

00:21:28,630 --> 00:21:30,550
If she had only known
that, she might have

590

00:21:30,550 --> 00:21:32,560
allowed you to have a piece.

591

00:21:32,560 --> 00:21:35,140
And I never got sick,
believe it or not.

592

00:21:35,140 --> 00:21:37,150
That's the amazing thing.

593

00:21:37,150 --> 00:21:39,200
I mean, you would
think that, wow.

594

00:21:39,200 --> 00:21:39,700
Yeah.

595

00:21:39,700 --> 00:21:40,300

The germs.

596

00:21:40,300 --> 00:21:42,430

Of course, the germs
and the feet on it.

597

00:21:42,430 --> 00:21:43,430

Ew.

598

00:21:43,430 --> 00:21:43,930

That's it.

599

00:21:43,930 --> 00:21:44,430

Thank you.

600

00:21:44,430 --> 00:21:45,200

Thank you, dear.

601

00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:46,570

OK.

602

00:21:46,570 --> 00:21:47,630

What about your father?

603

00:21:47,630 --> 00:21:49,360

What kind of a person was he?

604

00:21:49,360 --> 00:21:59,110

Well, he was a very detailed
person, had a big job.

605

00:21:59,110 --> 00:22:06,400

And he was not that
communicative about things.

606

00:22:06,400 --> 00:22:10,300

I just really followed
his footsteps.

607

00:22:10,300 --> 00:22:13,090

And it was just--

608
00:22:13,090 --> 00:22:14,780
there was no lecturing,
for instance.

609
00:22:14,780 --> 00:22:16,600
He was not lecturer.

610
00:22:16,600 --> 00:22:17,515
My mother was.

611
00:22:17,515 --> 00:22:18,640
Your mother was a lecturer.

612
00:22:18,640 --> 00:22:19,990
My mother was a lecturer.

613
00:22:19,990 --> 00:22:23,770
And so both my sister
and myself really

614
00:22:23,770 --> 00:22:28,090
were pretty much trained.

615
00:22:28,090 --> 00:22:30,250
So your mother,
is she the one who

616
00:22:30,250 --> 00:22:32,980
kind of was the disciplinarian?

617
00:22:32,980 --> 00:22:33,895
Yes, yes.

618
00:22:33,895 --> 00:22:35,780
OK.

619
00:22:35,780 --> 00:22:40,600
Very-- not controlling but--

620

00:22:40,600 --> 00:22:41,320
Guiding.

621
00:22:41,320 --> 00:22:41,820
Guiding.

622
00:22:41,820 --> 00:22:42,580
OK.

623
00:22:42,580 --> 00:22:44,590
Yeah.

624
00:22:44,590 --> 00:22:46,240
It's unusual.

625
00:22:46,240 --> 00:22:48,730
It's very nice when I hear
this, but it's unusual

626
00:22:48,730 --> 00:22:52,150
that kids would visit their
fathers at the office,

627
00:22:52,150 --> 00:22:53,290
you know?

628
00:22:53,290 --> 00:22:56,300
And was that something that
he did on a regular basis

629
00:22:56,300 --> 00:22:57,460
is bring you by?

630
00:22:57,460 --> 00:22:59,965
No, the office was too far away.

631
00:22:59,965 --> 00:23:01,840
It was in Brooklyn, and
we were in The Bronx.

632
00:23:01,840 --> 00:23:02,710
OK.

633

00:23:02,710 --> 00:23:09,850

But when I got older,
I would visit and do

634

00:23:09,850 --> 00:23:13,300

a little work there or
something, you know.

635

00:23:13,300 --> 00:23:19,900

And then after college, I ended
up there for a while working.

636

00:23:19,900 --> 00:23:23,650

But he was a very
good influence.

637

00:23:23,650 --> 00:23:28,060

I saw a lifestyle that
I would like to emulate.

638

00:23:28,060 --> 00:23:32,110

And I think that was a big
factor in my own growing up,

639

00:23:32,110 --> 00:23:32,830

yeah.

640

00:23:32,830 --> 00:23:35,010

Well, that's what
parents provide us more

641

00:23:35,010 --> 00:23:36,260

than anything else is a model.

642

00:23:36,260 --> 00:23:37,210

An influence, yeah.

643

00:23:37,210 --> 00:23:39,880

Yeah.

644

00:23:39,880 --> 00:23:43,060

Your parents, were they
very social people?

645
00:23:43,060 --> 00:23:45,760
Yes, they were bridge
players, and we always

646
00:23:45,760 --> 00:23:47,800
had people visiting.

647
00:23:47,800 --> 00:23:49,810
They did a lot of socializing.

648
00:23:49,810 --> 00:23:55,810
And so bridge was a big
part of their social life.

649
00:23:55,810 --> 00:23:58,960
And were most of their
friends Jewish or--

650
00:23:58,960 --> 00:23:59,470
Yes.

651
00:23:59,470 --> 00:24:00,550
OK.

652
00:24:00,550 --> 00:24:06,760
I would say that our whole
immediate world was Jewish,

653
00:24:06,760 --> 00:24:08,870
yes.

654
00:24:08,870 --> 00:24:10,630
And in this immediate
world, then I

655
00:24:10,630 --> 00:24:14,380
go back to my larger,
more political questions,

656

00:24:14,380 --> 00:24:18,340
was there ever talk
about Hitler in Germany

657
00:24:18,340 --> 00:24:21,520
and what's going on there,
as far as you remember?

658
00:24:21,520 --> 00:24:23,020
Not that I remember, no.

659
00:24:23,020 --> 00:24:23,830
OK.

660
00:24:23,830 --> 00:24:26,650
Yes and-- no.

661
00:24:26,650 --> 00:24:29,380
What was the talk usually about?

662
00:24:29,380 --> 00:24:34,360
Well we talked a
lot about sports.

663
00:24:34,360 --> 00:24:34,860
OK.

664
00:24:34,860 --> 00:24:39,250

665
00:24:39,250 --> 00:24:45,090
And I think we didn't do
too much talk about theater.

666
00:24:45,090 --> 00:24:46,680
I don't think we ever--

667
00:24:46,680 --> 00:24:49,320
there was not too much
visiting of Broadway.

668
00:24:49,320 --> 00:24:50,670

That was not part of our--

669
00:24:50,670 --> 00:24:52,350
What about cinema?

670
00:24:52,350 --> 00:24:53,610
I guess movies.

671
00:24:53,610 --> 00:24:56,220

672
00:24:56,220 --> 00:24:57,750
Yeah.

673
00:24:57,750 --> 00:25:00,210
I was allowed to
go every Saturday.

674
00:25:00,210 --> 00:25:02,580
I was allowed to
go to the movies.

675
00:25:02,580 --> 00:25:04,890
They had morning
shows in the theater.

676
00:25:04,890 --> 00:25:05,640
In The Bronx.

677
00:25:05,640 --> 00:25:06,510
In The Bronx.

678
00:25:06,510 --> 00:25:07,380
OK.

679
00:25:07,380 --> 00:25:09,390
And we all went.

680
00:25:09,390 --> 00:25:11,150
So that was a big activity.

681

00:25:11,150 --> 00:25:13,440
OK.

682
00:25:13,440 --> 00:25:16,770
What year did you
start high school?

683
00:25:16,770 --> 00:25:21,840
Well, 1939, '40.

684
00:25:21,840 --> 00:25:24,750
I graduated in '43.

685
00:25:24,750 --> 00:25:26,380
So you started
high school right--

686
00:25:26,380 --> 00:25:26,880
In '39.

687
00:25:26,880 --> 00:25:30,450
Yeah, in 1939, right when
the war starts in Europe.

688
00:25:30,450 --> 00:25:33,210
September 1, 1939,
the war starts.

689
00:25:33,210 --> 00:25:38,070
I will tell you exactly
where I was December 7, 1941.

690
00:25:38,070 --> 00:25:39,330
Tell me.

691
00:25:39,330 --> 00:25:42,120
I was watching a football game
with my father at the Polo

692
00:25:42,120 --> 00:25:43,830
Grounds.

693

00:25:43,830 --> 00:25:44,700
What grounds?

694
00:25:44,700 --> 00:25:45,540
The Polo Grounds.

695
00:25:45,540 --> 00:25:46,170
Polo Grounds.

696
00:25:46,170 --> 00:25:47,280
Polo Grounds.

697
00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:48,330
OK.

698
00:25:48,330 --> 00:25:51,930
And the announcement
came over that everybody

699
00:25:51,930 --> 00:25:55,710
in uniform report back
immediately blah blah blah.

700
00:25:55,710 --> 00:25:58,380
And I said, gee, I'm only--

701
00:25:58,380 --> 00:26:00,300
I was 16 years old.

702
00:26:00,300 --> 00:26:03,210
I remember saying that'll be it.

703
00:26:03,210 --> 00:26:05,850
I'll never get involved.

704
00:26:05,850 --> 00:26:08,040
And was that a
disappointment to you?

705
00:26:08,040 --> 00:26:08,670
Not really.

706
00:26:08,670 --> 00:26:09,270
No.

707
00:26:09,270 --> 00:26:10,050
OK.

708
00:26:10,050 --> 00:26:11,370
No.

709
00:26:11,370 --> 00:26:13,680
And how did your
father react when

710
00:26:13,680 --> 00:26:14,940
he heard that over the news--

711
00:26:14,940 --> 00:26:16,950
I mean, over the loudspeaker?

712
00:26:16,950 --> 00:26:18,730
Well, my father--

713
00:26:18,730 --> 00:26:21,480
I'll tell you once he
became what we call--

714
00:26:21,480 --> 00:26:24,990
we had fire wardens.

715
00:26:24,990 --> 00:26:27,990

716
00:26:27,990 --> 00:26:31,680
People would go out at night
and turn the lights off because

717
00:26:31,680 --> 00:26:33,060
of the war.

718
00:26:33,060 --> 00:26:35,430
He had a street

where he would turn--

719
00:26:35,430 --> 00:26:38,700
I would go with
him, turn the lamps.

720
00:26:38,700 --> 00:26:41,370
Were these gas lights or
are these electric lights?

721
00:26:41,370 --> 00:26:42,420
Street lamps.

722
00:26:42,420 --> 00:26:43,800
Street lights.

723
00:26:43,800 --> 00:26:46,500
And so this was all
part of the-- early part

724
00:26:46,500 --> 00:26:50,850
of the war, '40.

725
00:26:50,850 --> 00:26:51,630
'41 was when--

726
00:26:51,630 --> 00:26:53,340
'41, yeah.

727
00:26:53,340 --> 00:26:54,870
And he would go out.

728
00:26:54,870 --> 00:26:57,300
And I remember the bridge.

729
00:26:57,300 --> 00:26:58,950
And he would turn
the lights off.

730
00:26:58,950 --> 00:27:01,890
And we would spend
that time together.

731
00:27:01,890 --> 00:27:06,180
So we had that kind
of an activity.

732
00:27:06,180 --> 00:27:10,290
And when you were
in high school,

733
00:27:10,290 --> 00:27:12,600
was there then
talk in high school

734
00:27:12,600 --> 00:27:15,900
about what's going
on in the world?

735
00:27:15,900 --> 00:27:17,910
Not really.

736
00:27:17,910 --> 00:27:19,200
Not really.

737
00:27:19,200 --> 00:27:25,620
I mean, we saw nothing.

738
00:27:25,620 --> 00:27:27,300
No, I really--

739
00:27:27,300 --> 00:27:31,050
Were there newsreels that
you saw in the cinema or--

740
00:27:31,050 --> 00:27:33,930
I guess we went to-- when
we went to the movies, yeah,

741
00:27:33,930 --> 00:27:37,750
you'd see the cinemas.

742
00:27:37,750 --> 00:27:43,407
They were so far away, it didn't

make any difference to us.

743
00:27:43,407 --> 00:27:44,490
We're here, they're there.

744
00:27:44,490 --> 00:27:45,690
Yeah.

745
00:27:45,690 --> 00:27:48,450
I really wasn't-- I
was not that concerned.

746
00:27:48,450 --> 00:27:50,710
And what about newspapers?

747
00:27:50,710 --> 00:27:53,070
Did your parents
read newspapers?

748
00:27:53,070 --> 00:27:55,770
We had newspaper.

749
00:27:55,770 --> 00:27:57,900
We would read newspapers, yes.

750
00:27:57,900 --> 00:27:58,945
I guess it was the--

751
00:27:58,945 --> 00:28:01,540

752
00:28:01,540 --> 00:28:06,240
The New York Post I think was
the big paper at the time.

753
00:28:06,240 --> 00:28:08,260
And that was in the
house every day, yeah.

754
00:28:08,260 --> 00:28:14,860

755

00:28:14,860 --> 00:28:18,370

But we didn't have the news programs that are on the TV.

756

00:28:18,370 --> 00:28:19,360

There was no TV.

757

00:28:19,360 --> 00:28:20,320

On the radio.

758

00:28:20,320 --> 00:28:21,520

Radio, yeah.

759

00:28:21,520 --> 00:28:24,190

So you don't remember hearing news programs on the radio.

760

00:28:24,190 --> 00:28:24,880

Not really.

761

00:28:24,880 --> 00:28:26,930

Just entertainment programs.

762

00:28:26,930 --> 00:28:27,430

OK.

763

00:28:27,430 --> 00:28:29,440

Yeah, yeah, mm-hmm.

764

00:28:29,440 --> 00:28:31,390

It was low key.

765

00:28:31,390 --> 00:28:31,990

OK.

766

00:28:31,990 --> 00:28:33,250

Yeah.

767

00:28:33,250 --> 00:28:36,760

But in the neighborhood, nobody really talked about Hitler?

768
00:28:36,760 --> 00:28:37,690
No.

769
00:28:37,690 --> 00:28:38,860
That you heard.

770
00:28:38,860 --> 00:28:39,360
Yeah, right.

771
00:28:39,360 --> 00:28:42,940

772
00:28:42,940 --> 00:28:45,670
It was just not, yeah.

773
00:28:45,670 --> 00:28:46,640
And it was--

774
00:28:46,640 --> 00:28:48,790
And what about the
war with Japan, then?

775
00:28:48,790 --> 00:28:51,430
Because the United States
entered the war with Japan

776
00:28:51,430 --> 00:28:56,440
after Pearl Harbor,
December 7, 1941.

777
00:28:56,440 --> 00:28:58,270
Was there any talk in school?

778
00:28:58,270 --> 00:29:03,050
Did you know people who were
in the military at that time?

779
00:29:03,050 --> 00:29:05,710
You know, there
was not too much.

780

00:29:05,710 --> 00:29:09,640

Nobody from our
area was involved.

781

00:29:09,640 --> 00:29:14,140

Nobody knew somebody in
the army or it just--

782

00:29:14,140 --> 00:29:15,490

So life seemed to go on.

783

00:29:15,490 --> 00:29:18,780

It just was absolutely
very normal, yeah.

784

00:29:18,780 --> 00:29:20,830

Amazingly so.

785

00:29:20,830 --> 00:29:22,360

It was just, yeah.

786

00:29:22,360 --> 00:29:24,640

I never really thought
about it that way,

787

00:29:24,640 --> 00:29:28,060

but we had very
little contact, yeah.

788

00:29:28,060 --> 00:29:29,560

OK.

789

00:29:29,560 --> 00:29:31,780

So you finished
high school, yes?

790

00:29:31,780 --> 00:29:33,220

I finished high school.

791

00:29:33,220 --> 00:29:35,320

And when did you
finish high school?

792
00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:37,450
In 1943.

793
00:29:37,450 --> 00:29:38,050
June?

794
00:29:38,050 --> 00:29:39,460
June of '43.

795
00:29:39,460 --> 00:29:40,720
Then what happened?

796
00:29:40,720 --> 00:29:46,000
And then we had somebody
come to the school,

797
00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:50,080
and they came and
said, do you want

798
00:29:50,080 --> 00:29:54,670
to take a test for the army
specialized training program?

799
00:29:54,670 --> 00:29:56,260
They're giving a test.

800
00:29:56,260 --> 00:29:58,210
So a bunch of us took a test.

801
00:29:58,210 --> 00:30:01,660
And I passed.

802
00:30:01,660 --> 00:30:07,120
And I turned 18 in June.

803
00:30:07,120 --> 00:30:11,110
So I had to sign for the draft.

804
00:30:11,110 --> 00:30:17,890

And they told me
that if I signed out,

805
00:30:17,890 --> 00:30:20,460
I would go to school, AS--

806
00:30:20,460 --> 00:30:23,020
Army Specialized Training.

807
00:30:23,020 --> 00:30:24,185
So I signed up.

808
00:30:24,185 --> 00:30:25,810
So in other words,
you weren't drafted.

809
00:30:25,810 --> 00:30:26,530
You signed up.

810
00:30:26,530 --> 00:30:30,550
I signed-- but it was
kind of at the same, yeah.

811
00:30:30,550 --> 00:30:34,780
Having put my name on it, them
my number suddenly came up.

812
00:30:34,780 --> 00:30:36,700
OK.

813
00:30:36,700 --> 00:30:38,620
So when did you leave home?

814
00:30:38,620 --> 00:30:40,660
September 1943.

815
00:30:40,660 --> 00:30:44,020
So after high school,
you had two or three--

816
00:30:44,020 --> 00:30:45,350
you had the summer at home.

817
00:30:45,350 --> 00:30:45,850
That's it.

818
00:30:45,850 --> 00:30:46,350
That was it.

819
00:30:46,350 --> 00:30:47,380
That was it.

820
00:30:47,380 --> 00:30:49,420
And how did your parents react?

821
00:30:49,420 --> 00:30:51,910
Well, they were pretty upset.

822
00:30:51,910 --> 00:30:53,060
But I said don't worry.

823
00:30:53,060 --> 00:30:54,610
I'm going to go to school.

824
00:30:54,610 --> 00:30:56,840
That was my big thing.

825
00:30:56,840 --> 00:30:59,140
So I went to the Army.

826
00:30:59,140 --> 00:31:01,960
And we ended up at
Camp Upton, New York.

827
00:31:01,960 --> 00:31:02,620
Camp what?

828
00:31:02,620 --> 00:31:03,190
Upton.

829
00:31:03,190 --> 00:31:03,990
Upton, New York.

830
00:31:03,990 --> 00:31:04,490
Yeah.

831
00:31:04,490 --> 00:31:04,990
OK.

832
00:31:04,990 --> 00:31:06,430
And was that boot camp?

833
00:31:06,430 --> 00:31:07,600
That was boot camp.

834
00:31:07,600 --> 00:31:10,090
That was just an entry thing.

835
00:31:10,090 --> 00:31:11,140
OK.

836
00:31:11,140 --> 00:31:15,460
And then I was supposed
to go from there.

837
00:31:15,460 --> 00:31:20,530
They give you 17 weeks of
basic training, which was

838
00:31:20,530 --> 00:31:23,470
in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

839
00:31:23,470 --> 00:31:26,350
And from there, I was
supposed to go to a school.

840
00:31:26,350 --> 00:31:29,530
Now, when you were
in Camp Upton--

841
00:31:29,530 --> 00:31:31,060
That was basic.

842
00:31:31,060 --> 00:31:31,960

That was a--

843

00:31:31,960 --> 00:31:34,390

Was that sort of like a--

844

00:31:34,390 --> 00:31:36,640

that was basic training or
was that in Spartanburg?

845

00:31:36,640 --> 00:31:37,140

No.

846

00:31:37,140 --> 00:31:39,040

Spartanburg was the training.

847

00:31:39,040 --> 00:31:40,900

Upton was just a--

848

00:31:40,900 --> 00:31:41,455

A processing.

849

00:31:41,455 --> 00:31:42,760

A processing, that's right.

850

00:31:42,760 --> 00:31:43,260

That's it.

851

00:31:43,260 --> 00:31:44,660

OK.

852

00:31:44,660 --> 00:31:50,020

Did you meet people who were
different from the folks

853

00:31:50,020 --> 00:31:51,710

that you grew up with?

854

00:31:51,710 --> 00:31:52,210

Yes.

855

00:31:52,210 --> 00:31:52,840

Yes.

856
00:31:52,840 --> 00:31:55,630
Was this in Upton or
was this in Spartanburg?

857
00:31:55,630 --> 00:31:56,920
That was in Spartanburg, yeah.

858
00:31:56,920 --> 00:32:00,850
Upton was pretty much
the same milieu, yeah.

859
00:32:00,850 --> 00:32:01,870
OK.

860
00:32:01,870 --> 00:32:04,510
So what were they
like, these folks?

861
00:32:04,510 --> 00:32:07,510
I mean, because that
was one of those side

862
00:32:07,510 --> 00:32:10,263
effects of having this
draft, this overall draft

863
00:32:10,263 --> 00:32:10,930
in World War II.

864
00:32:10,930 --> 00:32:13,630
I remember very distinctly
getting involved

865
00:32:13,630 --> 00:32:18,250
with some Italian boys,
and I couldn't get over

866
00:32:18,250 --> 00:32:22,390
how close the Italian families
were to the Jewish families.

867

00:32:22,390 --> 00:32:26,260

It was very, very similar
relationships with the parents,

868

00:32:26,260 --> 00:32:27,853

you know.

869

00:32:27,853 --> 00:32:29,270

So that's something
I can remember

870

00:32:29,270 --> 00:32:31,403

very, very clearly, yeah.

871

00:32:31,403 --> 00:32:33,820

And I said, oh, well, that's
something that happened to me

872

00:32:33,820 --> 00:32:36,562

and so, you know.

873

00:32:36,562 --> 00:32:38,770

Did you meet young guys who
were from different parts

874

00:32:38,770 --> 00:32:39,640

of the country?

875

00:32:39,640 --> 00:32:42,200

No, they were all from our area.

876

00:32:42,200 --> 00:32:42,700

Really?

877

00:32:42,700 --> 00:32:43,300

Even if you--

878

00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:43,912

Spartanburg.

879

00:32:43,912 --> 00:32:46,120

In Spartanburg, they were
all from the New York area?

880
00:32:46,120 --> 00:32:46,870
Yeah.

881
00:32:46,870 --> 00:32:48,010
OK.

882
00:32:48,010 --> 00:32:50,420
But not in the Jewish
world that you grew up in.

883
00:32:50,420 --> 00:32:50,920
No, no.

884
00:32:50,920 --> 00:32:51,550
Yeah.

885
00:32:51,550 --> 00:32:52,050
OK.

886
00:32:52,050 --> 00:32:54,805
It was a lot of mixed.

887
00:32:54,805 --> 00:32:55,930
It was a mixed group, yeah.

888
00:32:55,930 --> 00:32:56,830
OK.

889
00:32:56,830 --> 00:33:01,330
So in basic training, what
are some of the things

890
00:33:01,330 --> 00:33:03,910
that you remember
the most vividly?

891
00:33:03,910 --> 00:33:07,480
Well, I think that
a lot of hiking--

892
00:33:07,480 --> 00:33:10,810
picnicking, I would call it.

893
00:33:10,810 --> 00:33:14,660
And this was basic
infantry training,

894
00:33:14,660 --> 00:33:18,700
which was kind of scary.

895
00:33:18,700 --> 00:33:22,900
Using weapons and went
hiking with a big--

896
00:33:22,900 --> 00:33:28,270
and physical, crawling
up obstacles, you know.

897
00:33:28,270 --> 00:33:30,930

898
00:33:30,930 --> 00:33:32,270
But I did very well.

899
00:33:32,270 --> 00:33:34,880
I was athletic, and
I was able to move,

900
00:33:34,880 --> 00:33:37,430
and I enjoyed the outdoors.

901
00:33:37,430 --> 00:33:41,140
And I was back on
that as the hiking

902
00:33:41,140 --> 00:33:45,370
is a big part of my training.

903
00:33:45,370 --> 00:33:51,580
And then suddenly, the army
was planning the invasion.

904
00:33:51,580 --> 00:33:54,090
And they realized that
because they suddenly

905
00:33:54,090 --> 00:33:58,255
had a date that all the guys
that were set for school,

906
00:33:58,255 --> 00:33:59,590
it was canceled.

907
00:33:59,590 --> 00:34:01,030
ASAP was cancelled.

908
00:34:01,030 --> 00:34:04,440
Did you know that at the time,
why they were doing this?

909
00:34:04,440 --> 00:34:05,320
No.

910
00:34:05,320 --> 00:34:06,460
How did you hear it?

911
00:34:06,460 --> 00:34:09,280
We didn't know that
there was a date.

912
00:34:09,280 --> 00:34:11,302
We didn't know anything
about the invasion.

913
00:34:11,302 --> 00:34:12,969
So what kind of reason
were they giving?

914
00:34:12,969 --> 00:34:18,580
They just announced it, that
the program had been stopped.

915
00:34:18,580 --> 00:34:19,360

OK.

916

00:34:19,360 --> 00:34:20,770

And suddenly, we were shipped.

917

00:34:20,770 --> 00:34:22,690

And we were shipped
out overseas.

918

00:34:22,690 --> 00:34:24,699

After the 17 weeks
in Spartanburg?

919

00:34:24,699 --> 00:34:25,330

Yes.

920

00:34:25,330 --> 00:34:26,739

That's not much training.

921

00:34:26,739 --> 00:34:28,000

17 weeks in training.

922

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:29,739

That was it.

923

00:34:29,739 --> 00:34:33,110

17 weeks is now three months?

924

00:34:33,110 --> 00:34:33,730

Four months?

925

00:34:33,730 --> 00:34:36,022

Three and 1/2 months,
something like that?

926

00:34:36,022 --> 00:34:36,730

That's not a lot.

927

00:34:36,730 --> 00:34:38,199

So that meant the fall.

928

00:34:38,199 --> 00:34:40,480
You were there in
Spartanburg for the fall.

929
00:34:40,480 --> 00:34:41,230
Yes.

930
00:34:41,230 --> 00:34:42,610
It was September, October.

931
00:34:42,610 --> 00:34:44,050
That's right.

932
00:34:44,050 --> 00:34:44,590
Yeah.

933
00:34:44,590 --> 00:34:47,080
And by the time we were
shipped over in March,

934
00:34:47,080 --> 00:34:49,853
I think March of '44--

935
00:34:49,853 --> 00:34:51,020
That's another three months.

936
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:52,437
So where did you
spend the winter?

937
00:34:52,437 --> 00:34:57,950

938
00:34:57,950 --> 00:34:59,700
Good question.

939
00:34:59,700 --> 00:35:01,610
I have to remember.

940
00:35:01,610 --> 00:35:02,420
OK.

941

00:35:02,420 --> 00:35:05,150

Because that would mean
half a year's training,

942

00:35:05,150 --> 00:35:06,710

if you went in in September--

943

00:35:06,710 --> 00:35:11,360

I think we stayed in
Spartanburg longer than that.

944

00:35:11,360 --> 00:35:14,280

So you remember being
shipped over in March.

945

00:35:14,280 --> 00:35:14,970

Yes.

946

00:35:14,970 --> 00:35:15,470

Yeah.

947

00:35:15,470 --> 00:35:15,970

OK.

948

00:35:15,970 --> 00:35:19,430

What was that like,
going overseas?

949

00:35:19,430 --> 00:35:26,660

Well, I can-- it
was a troopship,

950

00:35:26,660 --> 00:35:33,500

which is packed to the
gills, you know, and people--

951

00:35:33,500 --> 00:35:36,890

it was a rough,
rough, rough ride.

952

00:35:36,890 --> 00:35:38,160

Did you sleep in hammocks?

953
00:35:38,160 --> 00:35:38,840
No, no.

954
00:35:38,840 --> 00:35:41,450

955
00:35:41,450 --> 00:35:43,170
There were mattresses.

956
00:35:43,170 --> 00:35:46,400
Just piled four or five high.

957
00:35:46,400 --> 00:35:48,110
Four or five high bunks?

958
00:35:48,110 --> 00:35:48,650
Bunks, yeah.

959
00:35:48,650 --> 00:35:50,000
The bunks, yeah.

960
00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:52,880
That's pretty high.

961
00:35:52,880 --> 00:35:56,840
And was there danger
of hitting mines

962
00:35:56,840 --> 00:35:58,910
or was there danger of U
Boats that you remember?

963
00:35:58,910 --> 00:36:03,920
I'm sure there were,
but we were not aware.

964
00:36:03,920 --> 00:36:06,920
But we were in a
big, big convoy.

965

00:36:06,920 --> 00:36:10,130
And we ended up in England--

966
00:36:10,130 --> 00:36:11,970
actually, in Scotland.

967
00:36:11,970 --> 00:36:15,775
We embarked in Scotland.

968
00:36:15,775 --> 00:36:17,150
And they took us
all the way down

969
00:36:17,150 --> 00:36:18,290
to the end of England and--

970
00:36:18,290 --> 00:36:19,220
To where?

971
00:36:19,220 --> 00:36:20,450
To Cornwall?

972
00:36:20,450 --> 00:36:21,830
Another training camp.

973
00:36:21,830 --> 00:36:22,520
OK.

974
00:36:22,520 --> 00:36:25,980
Was this Cornwall that
you ended up going to?

975
00:36:25,980 --> 00:36:26,480
No.

976
00:36:26,480 --> 00:36:29,230
Do you know the place that
you landed in Scotland

977
00:36:29,230 --> 00:36:30,230
and where they took you?

978

00:36:30,230 --> 00:36:33,830

979

00:36:33,830 --> 00:36:35,983

It was a big city right
nearby in Scotland.

980

00:36:35,983 --> 00:36:36,900

What's the city there?

981

00:36:36,900 --> 00:36:37,490

Edinburgh?

982

00:36:37,490 --> 00:36:38,330

Maybe could be that.

983

00:36:38,330 --> 00:36:39,640

Glasgow?

984

00:36:39,640 --> 00:36:40,640

Glasgow, I think it was.

985

00:36:40,640 --> 00:36:41,570

It was Glasgow.

986

00:36:41,570 --> 00:36:42,320

OK.

987

00:36:42,320 --> 00:36:43,130

Yes.

988

00:36:43,130 --> 00:36:45,050

And then we got--

989

00:36:45,050 --> 00:36:46,730

put us on a train.

990

00:36:46,730 --> 00:36:50,580

And all the way down
to the end of England.

991

00:36:50,580 --> 00:36:52,630

Well, the very
corner is Cornwall.

992

00:36:52,630 --> 00:36:54,960

It was sheep-- it
was sheep country.

993

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:55,610

I remember.

994

00:36:55,610 --> 00:36:56,570

Yeah?

995

00:36:56,570 --> 00:36:57,230

OK?

996

00:36:57,230 --> 00:36:58,640

Was it very pretty?

997

00:36:58,640 --> 00:36:59,420

Very pretty.

998

00:36:59,420 --> 00:37:00,260

That's Cornwall.

999

00:37:00,260 --> 00:37:00,570

Yeah.

1000

00:37:00,570 --> 00:37:01,070

Yeah.

1001

00:37:01,070 --> 00:37:02,010

Oh, OK.

1002

00:37:02,010 --> 00:37:02,510

Yeah.

1003

00:37:02,510 --> 00:37:05,240

With cliffs and things
like that into the sea?

1004
00:37:05,240 --> 00:37:10,100
A lot of beautiful
streams and little bridges

1005
00:37:10,100 --> 00:37:11,120
built by the Romans.

1006
00:37:11,120 --> 00:37:15,980
I remember seeing the
signs, built by the Romans.

1007
00:37:15,980 --> 00:37:18,350
What kind of a camp was
it that you ended up in?

1008
00:37:18,350 --> 00:37:22,100
It was a another
basic training camp.

1009
00:37:22,100 --> 00:37:23,470
Infantry, yeah.

1010
00:37:23,470 --> 00:37:25,960

1011
00:37:25,960 --> 00:37:26,960
What was I going to say?

1012
00:37:26,960 --> 00:37:34,420

1013
00:37:34,420 --> 00:37:36,920
I had something I
wanted to remember.

1014
00:37:36,920 --> 00:37:41,080
I have a vague,
vague remembrance.

1015
00:37:41,080 --> 00:37:45,590
But we just assumed

that we were trapped.

1016
00:37:45,590 --> 00:37:47,530
We really felt trapped.

1017
00:37:47,530 --> 00:37:48,760
I was going to ask you that.

1018
00:37:48,760 --> 00:37:49,260
Yes, please.

1019
00:37:49,260 --> 00:37:52,060
After you after you learned
that the whole education

1020
00:37:52,060 --> 00:37:52,960
program was stopped--

1021
00:37:52,960 --> 00:37:54,790
This was a major blow.

1022
00:37:54,790 --> 00:37:55,690
Really was a blow.

1023
00:37:55,690 --> 00:38:03,670
I wasn't expecting to
be handled this way.

1024
00:38:03,670 --> 00:38:04,780
So that was--

1025
00:38:04,780 --> 00:38:06,160
Were you bitter?

1026
00:38:06,160 --> 00:38:07,900
I think so.

1027
00:38:07,900 --> 00:38:10,430
One of the first
major disappointments.

1028

00:38:10,430 --> 00:38:13,000

1029

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,320

How could they do this
kind of thing, you know?

1030

00:38:17,320 --> 00:38:20,083

But you know, you're
trapped, and you're--

1031

00:38:20,083 --> 00:38:21,500

By that point, you
have no choice.

1032

00:38:21,500 --> 00:38:24,420

You have no choice, yeah.

1033

00:38:24,420 --> 00:38:30,000

And we were given no
information about invasions

1034

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:34,230

or we had no idea
what was going on.

1035

00:38:34,230 --> 00:38:36,840

Did you already belong
to a particular unit

1036

00:38:36,840 --> 00:38:37,890

or a particular division?

1037

00:38:37,890 --> 00:38:38,390

No.

1038

00:38:38,390 --> 00:38:41,010

We were called replacements.

1039

00:38:41,010 --> 00:38:45,300

So we joined the unit
in Normandy, yeah.

1040

00:38:45,300 --> 00:38:45,960

OK.

1041

00:38:45,960 --> 00:38:48,120

Went over as replacements.

1042

00:38:48,120 --> 00:38:48,990

OK.

1043

00:38:48,990 --> 00:38:53,920

So what kind of training did
you undergo in Southern England?

1044

00:38:53,920 --> 00:38:54,420

Basic.

1045

00:38:54,420 --> 00:38:57,420

Again, essentially what we
were doing in the states.

1046

00:38:57,420 --> 00:38:58,560

So not much different.

1047

00:38:58,560 --> 00:38:59,910

No, no.

1048

00:38:59,910 --> 00:39:01,410

Hiking, climbing.

1049

00:39:01,410 --> 00:39:05,640

Weapon-- a lot of weapons
training and different mortars

1050

00:39:05,640 --> 00:39:09,240

and rifles and
all kinds of guns.

1051

00:39:09,240 --> 00:39:11,170

Were the trainers US or British?

1052

00:39:11,170 --> 00:39:11,850

All US.

1053

00:39:11,850 --> 00:39:12,850

Everything was US, yeah.

1054

00:39:12,850 --> 00:39:14,600

Did you have any contact
with the British?

1055

00:39:14,600 --> 00:39:15,990

No, no.

1056

00:39:15,990 --> 00:39:16,650

No.

1057

00:39:16,650 --> 00:39:19,155

There was a very
small town nearby,

1058

00:39:19,155 --> 00:39:22,640

but we never got out too much.

1059

00:39:22,640 --> 00:39:23,890

What was the name of the town?

1060

00:39:23,890 --> 00:39:25,740

Do you remember?

1061

00:39:25,740 --> 00:39:27,390

I used to know it.

1062

00:39:27,390 --> 00:39:28,980

It'll come to you.

1063

00:39:28,980 --> 00:39:32,160

It'll come when
the camera's gone.

1064

00:39:32,160 --> 00:39:36,680

But I still do remember,
though, some things very, very--

1065

00:39:36,680 --> 00:39:40,230

when we finally
did get overseas--

1066

00:39:40,230 --> 00:39:45,930

over the Channel into Normandy,
and I can remember standing

1067

00:39:45,930 --> 00:39:48,030

on the beach.

1068

00:39:48,030 --> 00:39:51,975

And it was June of '44.

1069

00:39:51,975 --> 00:39:54,990

1070

00:39:54,990 --> 00:39:59,070

And I said, I can't
believe a year ago today--

1071

00:39:59,070 --> 00:40:01,290

it was June of '43--

1072

00:40:01,290 --> 00:40:02,580

that I graduated high school.

1073

00:40:02,580 --> 00:40:04,180

So here I am.

1074

00:40:04,180 --> 00:40:05,910

I mean, you realize
that that was

1075

00:40:05,910 --> 00:40:08,670

a major, major moment for me.

1076

00:40:08,670 --> 00:40:10,170

Of course.

1077

00:40:10,170 --> 00:40:11,370

Of course.

1078
00:40:11,370 --> 00:40:14,100
June of '44, you're
19 years old.

1079
00:40:14,100 --> 00:40:15,230
You just turned 19.

1080
00:40:15,230 --> 00:40:17,790
Just turned 19.

1081
00:40:17,790 --> 00:40:20,550
That was my birthday present
from General Eisenhower,

1082
00:40:20,550 --> 00:40:23,370
I always say.

1083
00:40:23,370 --> 00:40:25,710
Levine, you're
going into combat.

1084
00:40:25,710 --> 00:40:32,540

1085
00:40:32,540 --> 00:40:36,170
So you arrive in
Britain in March.

1086
00:40:36,170 --> 00:40:39,330
And the invasion is
June 6, I believe, '44.

1087
00:40:39,330 --> 00:40:40,710
Yes, correct.

1088
00:40:40,710 --> 00:40:43,090
So we have March,
April, and May.

1089
00:40:43,090 --> 00:40:44,330

Three months of initial--

1090
00:40:44,330 --> 00:40:45,450
Three months.

1091
00:40:45,450 --> 00:40:46,430
--service.

1092
00:40:46,430 --> 00:40:48,860
And then when
they're getting you

1093
00:40:48,860 --> 00:40:50,630
ready to send you
across the Channel,

1094
00:40:50,630 --> 00:40:52,820
how does your routine change?

1095
00:40:52,820 --> 00:40:54,530
What happened after that?

1096
00:40:54,530 --> 00:40:57,035
What happened after the
training was finished?

1097
00:40:57,035 --> 00:41:02,570

1098
00:41:02,570 --> 00:41:06,230
You know, nothing,
really special.

1099
00:41:06,230 --> 00:41:09,920
Did you go to a port
city or something?

1100
00:41:09,920 --> 00:41:15,710
Well, we went directly from
our camp to the Port Plymouth.

1101
00:41:15,710 --> 00:41:17,390

Plymouth was the port.

1102
00:41:17,390 --> 00:41:19,790
And convoyed by truck?

1103
00:41:19,790 --> 00:41:20,870
Yeah.

1104
00:41:20,870 --> 00:41:21,920
OK.

1105
00:41:21,920 --> 00:41:24,380
And at that point, had anybody
told you what you're doing

1106
00:41:24,380 --> 00:41:26,330
and where you're going?

1107
00:41:26,330 --> 00:41:30,380
At that point, we
were told, yes.

1108
00:41:30,380 --> 00:41:33,530
That's when we first found out.

1109
00:41:33,530 --> 00:41:36,350
That's when we found out.

1110
00:41:36,350 --> 00:41:43,160
We hadn't even heard-- we never
even heard about the invasion.

1111
00:41:43,160 --> 00:41:45,110
There was no real news.

1112
00:41:45,110 --> 00:41:48,290
June 6, we were still, you know.

1113
00:41:48,290 --> 00:41:52,870

1114

00:41:52,870 --> 00:41:55,000
Very strange.

1115
00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:59,440
I never really considered
the timing, but that's--

1116
00:41:59,440 --> 00:42:00,955
Well, you know, you--

1117
00:42:00,955 --> 00:42:04,660
You just learn to accept
every day is to just keeps

1118
00:42:04,660 --> 00:42:05,950
going at it.

1119
00:42:05,950 --> 00:42:08,530
Well, it is--

1120
00:42:08,530 --> 00:42:12,820
I find it amazing
that to organize

1121
00:42:12,820 --> 00:42:19,630
such a huge mass movement
and keep it secret,

1122
00:42:19,630 --> 00:42:22,680
that's what they had to do so
the Germans wouldn't find out.

1123
00:42:22,680 --> 00:42:26,020
That's why they were
playing games with us.

1124
00:42:26,020 --> 00:42:29,950
They had built this phony camp
so that the Germans thought

1125
00:42:29,950 --> 00:42:34,180
there was going to be an
invasion to Calais, which

1126
00:42:34,180 --> 00:42:36,350
was a different fort entirely.

1127
00:42:36,350 --> 00:42:36,850
Yeah.

1128
00:42:36,850 --> 00:42:38,980
And yeah, they--

1129
00:42:38,980 --> 00:42:41,950
But see, one of the
consequences is that guys

1130
00:42:41,950 --> 00:42:43,388
like you are in the dark.

1131
00:42:43,388 --> 00:42:44,680
You don't know what's going on.

1132
00:42:44,680 --> 00:42:46,240
There was nothing talked about.

1133
00:42:46,240 --> 00:42:47,680
That's right.

1134
00:42:47,680 --> 00:42:48,970
There's a good reason.

1135
00:42:48,970 --> 00:42:52,420
Because they were
trying to hide it, yeah.

1136
00:42:52,420 --> 00:42:56,050
So the first you hear
that you're going over

1137
00:42:56,050 --> 00:42:59,380
is still in the
camp or in Plymouth,

1138

00:42:59,380 --> 00:43:01,030
when you get to Plymouth?

1139
00:43:01,030 --> 00:43:02,210
No, in the camp, yeah.

1140
00:43:02,210 --> 00:43:02,960
In the camp.

1141
00:43:02,960 --> 00:43:09,790
I think we were issued
certain combat gear,

1142
00:43:09,790 --> 00:43:12,430
some combat gear, and then
suddenly you realize, hey,

1143
00:43:12,430 --> 00:43:14,920
why am I getting this?

1144
00:43:14,920 --> 00:43:16,750
So that's when it
hits that you're

1145
00:43:16,750 --> 00:43:18,040
going to be going into combat.

1146
00:43:18,040 --> 00:43:18,820
Mm-hmm.

1147
00:43:18,820 --> 00:43:22,360
I can't imagine what
that moment was like.

1148
00:43:22,360 --> 00:43:23,460
You know, you're a kid.

1149
00:43:23,460 --> 00:43:24,250
Yeah, yeah.

1150
00:43:24,250 --> 00:43:26,650
You don't realize

how young you are.

1151
00:43:26,650 --> 00:43:29,560
You think you're 19, wow.

1152
00:43:29,560 --> 00:43:30,670
It's a baby.

1153
00:43:30,670 --> 00:43:31,690
Yeah.

1154
00:43:31,690 --> 00:43:32,380
Yeah.

1155
00:43:32,380 --> 00:43:35,410
Now I know.

1156
00:43:35,410 --> 00:43:40,120
So when you get to
Plymouth, what kind of boat

1157
00:43:40,120 --> 00:43:41,050
did they put you on?

1158
00:43:41,050 --> 00:43:44,440

1159
00:43:44,440 --> 00:43:47,575
That was a troop--

1160
00:43:47,575 --> 00:43:50,110
infantry-- they
call that infantry.

1161
00:43:50,110 --> 00:43:54,610

1162
00:43:54,610 --> 00:43:56,410
There was initials for it.

1163
00:43:56,410 --> 00:43:58,990

Infantry something ship.

1164

00:43:58,990 --> 00:44:02,110

ILS, like Infantry Landing Ship.

1165

00:44:02,110 --> 00:44:02,980

OK.

1166

00:44:02,980 --> 00:44:05,370

How long did the crossing take?

1167

00:44:05,370 --> 00:44:07,870

Oh, several-- a few hours.

1168

00:44:07,870 --> 00:44:08,580

OK.

1169

00:44:08,580 --> 00:44:09,482

Yeah.

1170

00:44:09,482 --> 00:44:11,440

And was it nighttime,
daytime when you crossed?

1171

00:44:11,440 --> 00:44:11,830

Daytime.

1172

00:44:11,830 --> 00:44:12,160

Oh, yeah.

1173

00:44:12,160 --> 00:44:12,430

Daytime.

1174

00:44:12,430 --> 00:44:13,120

Daytime.

1175

00:44:13,120 --> 00:44:15,550

And do you remember the
date that you crossed?

1176

00:44:15,550 --> 00:44:16,700

I don't.

1177
00:44:16,700 --> 00:44:17,200
OK.

1178
00:44:17,200 --> 00:44:18,940
I think it was about
a week or so after--

1179
00:44:18,940 --> 00:44:19,870
D-Day.

1180
00:44:19,870 --> 00:44:21,080
After D-Day, yeah.

1181
00:44:21,080 --> 00:44:23,113
So you knew that D Day
had already happened.

1182
00:44:23,113 --> 00:44:24,280
Yes, at that point, we knew.

1183
00:44:24,280 --> 00:44:26,020
Yeah.

1184
00:44:26,020 --> 00:44:27,010
OK.

1185
00:44:27,010 --> 00:44:30,430
But it wasn't until--

1186
00:44:30,430 --> 00:44:31,180
aware.

1187
00:44:31,180 --> 00:44:32,140
Yeah.

1188
00:44:32,140 --> 00:44:32,830
OK.

1189
00:44:32,830 --> 00:44:36,210

So when you were crossing,
were there planes overhead?

1190
00:44:36,210 --> 00:44:38,740
Oh, yeah there was.

1191
00:44:38,740 --> 00:44:40,780
I mean, it wasn't a major--

1192
00:44:40,780 --> 00:44:42,700
all that had done previously.

1193
00:44:42,700 --> 00:44:47,340
That was the week before,
you know, on the 6th,

1194
00:44:47,340 --> 00:44:51,340
when all the ships, the
Navy ships, and we were just

1195
00:44:51,340 --> 00:44:52,990
pretty much alone.

1196
00:44:52,990 --> 00:44:53,620
OK.

1197
00:44:53,620 --> 00:44:55,810
Well, I remember talking
to some guys who were

1198
00:44:55,810 --> 00:44:57,460
part of this first invasion.

1199
00:44:57,460 --> 00:44:58,130
Yes.

1200
00:44:58,130 --> 00:45:02,200
And they would say that why
didn't those planes bomb

1201
00:45:02,200 --> 00:45:06,250
those guys, you know, the

Germans in the little pillboxes

1202
00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:07,690
on top of the cliffs?

1203
00:45:07,690 --> 00:45:08,970
And they flew over.

1204
00:45:08,970 --> 00:45:09,470
Yeah.

1205
00:45:09,470 --> 00:45:11,887
Which is one of the reasons
there were so many casualties.

1206
00:45:11,887 --> 00:45:12,430
That's right.

1207
00:45:12,430 --> 00:45:15,160
They missed the place.

1208
00:45:15,160 --> 00:45:20,470
They had no idea, as a matter
of fact, about the hedgerows.

1209
00:45:20,470 --> 00:45:23,470
The hedgerows were
a major, major part

1210
00:45:23,470 --> 00:45:27,040
of the defense set up.

1211
00:45:27,040 --> 00:45:33,130
And our people-- hedgerows,
what a hedgerows, you know?

1212
00:45:33,130 --> 00:45:35,380
And that's what got
us all in trouble

1213
00:45:35,380 --> 00:45:39,340
because the Germans were using

that as a wonderful defense

1214
00:45:39,340 --> 00:45:40,240
mechanism.

1215
00:45:40,240 --> 00:45:41,620
Are you familiar with hedgerows?

1216
00:45:41,620 --> 00:45:43,060
Well, the hedgerows are--

1217
00:45:43,060 --> 00:45:45,460
wouldn't that be something
beyond the cliffs

1218
00:45:45,460 --> 00:45:46,560
that's in the countryside?

1219
00:45:46,560 --> 00:45:47,060
Yes.

1220
00:45:47,060 --> 00:45:48,190
Yes, the countryside.

1221
00:45:48,190 --> 00:45:48,790
The farming.

1222
00:45:48,790 --> 00:45:50,260
The farmlands.

1223
00:45:50,260 --> 00:45:54,062
All the fields were
separated by hedgerows.

1224
00:45:54,062 --> 00:45:56,020
They kept the cows in,
and they kept everyone--

1225
00:45:56,020 --> 00:45:57,190
everything was--

1226

00:45:57,190 --> 00:46:02,410
but every one of them was an
embankment and then trees.

1227
00:46:02,410 --> 00:46:06,040
So you had-- they issued
us gloves, for instance.

1228
00:46:06,040 --> 00:46:07,360
We had gloves.

1229
00:46:07,360 --> 00:46:09,760
And a couple of
days, the gloves,

1230
00:46:09,760 --> 00:46:14,032
which were threads, because
you were just always using--

1231
00:46:14,032 --> 00:46:16,150
Using them to climb
onto the branches

1232
00:46:16,150 --> 00:46:17,180
and over the hedgerows?

1233
00:46:17,180 --> 00:46:17,680
Yeah.

1234
00:46:17,680 --> 00:46:18,940
Is this it?

1235
00:46:18,940 --> 00:46:21,640
You could imagine, it
was quite a defense.

1236
00:46:21,640 --> 00:46:22,330
Very tough.

1237
00:46:22,330 --> 00:46:23,380
Very, very bad.

1238

00:46:23,380 --> 00:46:26,080
So you'd have to
fight field by field.

1239
00:46:26,080 --> 00:46:27,020
That's right.

1240
00:46:27,020 --> 00:46:27,520
OK.

1241
00:46:27,520 --> 00:46:30,280
It was a struggle, and
it took us a long--

1242
00:46:30,280 --> 00:46:32,830
that's why it took so long
to get out of Normandy,

1243
00:46:32,830 --> 00:46:34,370
because they--

1244
00:46:34,370 --> 00:46:35,170
OK.

1245
00:46:35,170 --> 00:46:36,370
OK.

1246
00:46:36,370 --> 00:46:38,230
So when you were--

1247
00:46:38,230 --> 00:46:40,810
about a week after
D-Day, do you know

1248
00:46:40,810 --> 00:46:43,690
any of the details of
D-Day at that point?

1249
00:46:43,690 --> 00:46:44,660
No, nothing.

1250
00:46:44,660 --> 00:46:45,160

Nothing.

1251

00:46:45,160 --> 00:46:47,470

You just knew that there
already had been the invasion.

1252

00:46:47,470 --> 00:46:48,970

Yes.

1253

00:46:48,970 --> 00:46:51,160

And when you're on the ship--

1254

00:46:51,160 --> 00:46:54,130

You don't get any
information, not really.

1255

00:46:54,130 --> 00:46:56,440

Well, if you did, all the
kids would turn around

1256

00:46:56,440 --> 00:46:58,430

and run, you know, or want to.

1257

00:46:58,430 --> 00:46:58,930

Yeah.

1258

00:46:58,930 --> 00:46:59,472

That's right.

1259

00:46:59,472 --> 00:47:02,290

That's right.

1260

00:47:02,290 --> 00:47:05,880

When you did get to
Normandy, what do you see?

1261

00:47:05,880 --> 00:47:07,750

Were you released
into the water?

1262

00:47:07,750 --> 00:47:08,410

No, no, no.

1263
00:47:08,410 --> 00:47:09,700
We landed on the beach.

1264
00:47:09,700 --> 00:47:11,800
You landed on the beach.

1265
00:47:11,800 --> 00:47:17,260
But as a matter of
fact, I remember

1266
00:47:17,260 --> 00:47:20,260
there were a lot
of German prisoners

1267
00:47:20,260 --> 00:47:22,750
on the beach at that point.

1268
00:47:22,750 --> 00:47:24,175
And they were being shipped.

1269
00:47:24,175 --> 00:47:27,250
In the boat that we came on,
they were being shipped back.

1270
00:47:27,250 --> 00:47:29,860
And I kept saying to
myself, how lucky.

1271
00:47:29,860 --> 00:47:30,940
How lucky these guys.

1272
00:47:30,940 --> 00:47:33,880

1273
00:47:33,880 --> 00:47:35,200
Yeah.

1274
00:47:35,200 --> 00:47:36,400
There you are.

1275

00:47:36,400 --> 00:47:38,770
Well, by that point--
here's another question--

1276
00:47:38,770 --> 00:47:41,920
by that point, did
know more about Hitler?

1277
00:47:41,920 --> 00:47:45,070
Did you know more about what
the war was really all about?

1278
00:47:45,070 --> 00:47:47,620
Well, you know, at
that point, we had--

1279
00:47:47,620 --> 00:47:52,540
I must say that in the
city, in our neighborhood,

1280
00:47:52,540 --> 00:48:00,570
we had families coming over in
the years of, I guess, like--

1281
00:48:00,570 --> 00:48:01,761
Refugees.

1282
00:48:01,761 --> 00:48:02,700
Refugees.

1283
00:48:02,700 --> 00:48:04,530
'40 or '41.

1284
00:48:04,530 --> 00:48:05,160
OK.

1285
00:48:05,160 --> 00:48:11,860
And I remember people
talking about meeting people.

1286
00:48:11,860 --> 00:48:14,940
I remember that up in
Washington Heights,

1287
00:48:14,940 --> 00:48:19,120
there were a lot of refugees.

1288
00:48:19,120 --> 00:48:23,520
So suddenly, we were aware of
what was happening in Germany

1289
00:48:23,520 --> 00:48:27,900
through this kind of talk.

1290
00:48:27,900 --> 00:48:29,707
Didn't know the details.

1291
00:48:29,707 --> 00:48:31,290
But you knew things
were bad for Jews.

1292
00:48:31,290 --> 00:48:31,790
Yes.

1293
00:48:31,790 --> 00:48:34,710
They were coming.

1294
00:48:34,710 --> 00:48:37,530
So they were-- that's right.

1295
00:48:37,530 --> 00:48:39,930
These were mostly the
refugees that you'd

1296
00:48:39,930 --> 00:48:41,790
refer to if they went
to Washington Heights.

1297
00:48:41,790 --> 00:48:44,010
They're usually
German-Jewish refugees.

1298
00:48:44,010 --> 00:48:46,410
Yeah.

1299

00:48:46,410 --> 00:48:50,070

But we just, as I said,
we never did meet them.

1300

00:48:50,070 --> 00:48:52,560

So we were aware of them.

1301

00:48:52,560 --> 00:48:53,490

Secondhand.

1302

00:48:53,490 --> 00:48:54,030

Secondhand.

1303

00:48:54,030 --> 00:48:59,160

So I was, at that point,
landing in Normandy.

1304

00:48:59,160 --> 00:49:03,000

I had a sneaking
suspicion that being a Jew

1305

00:49:03,000 --> 00:49:05,310

was not the best thing.

1306

00:49:05,310 --> 00:49:08,920

Now, I must say this.

1307

00:49:08,920 --> 00:49:12,330

If you're aware of the fact that
when you come into the service,

1308

00:49:12,330 --> 00:49:15,060

you're issued dog tags.

1309

00:49:15,060 --> 00:49:16,770

OK what is on those dog tags?

1310

00:49:16,770 --> 00:49:22,260

Your name and your serial number
and something very special.

1311

00:49:22,260 --> 00:49:23,040
OK, what's that?

1312
00:49:23,040 --> 00:49:26,520
H for Hebrew.

1313
00:49:26,520 --> 00:49:27,510
C for Catholic.

1314
00:49:27,510 --> 00:49:28,675
P for Protestant.

1315
00:49:28,675 --> 00:49:30,060
H for Hebrew.

1316
00:49:30,060 --> 00:49:35,340
So you walked around with a
dog tag that was stamped H.

1317
00:49:35,340 --> 00:49:37,740
And the German Army--

1318
00:49:37,740 --> 00:49:44,880
ah, the German Army-- the US
Army took Jewish soldiers,

1319
00:49:44,880 --> 00:49:49,890
put them in combat in Nazi
Germany, knowing there was--

1320
00:49:49,890 --> 00:49:53,190
to me, to this day, that's why
Berga becomes such a very--

1321
00:49:53,190 --> 00:49:56,730
because those guys
were all selected

1322
00:49:56,730 --> 00:49:58,140
because they were Jewish.

1323
00:49:58,140 --> 00:50:00,840

So how did they know?

1324
00:50:00,840 --> 00:50:03,330
So there's something
that still to this day

1325
00:50:03,330 --> 00:50:09,600
is very upsetting to me,
that we were sent there.

1326
00:50:09,600 --> 00:50:12,730
Was that like a stamp of--

1327
00:50:12,730 --> 00:50:16,140
So in other words, it's
almost like the US Army

1328
00:50:16,140 --> 00:50:19,440
sends the Jewish guys--

1329
00:50:19,440 --> 00:50:26,310
I mean, are you
saying that they were

1330
00:50:26,310 --> 00:50:29,520
either conscious
or unconsciously--

1331
00:50:29,520 --> 00:50:34,110
Were they not aware that the
Germans had a Jewish problem?

1332
00:50:34,110 --> 00:50:34,980
That's right.

1333
00:50:34,980 --> 00:50:35,730
OK.

1334
00:50:35,730 --> 00:50:41,850
Why would you send a
soldier marked basically?

1335

00:50:41,850 --> 00:50:47,130
Might as well put it on your
forehead and say, you know.

1336
00:50:47,130 --> 00:50:52,380
So in the training,
whether you were in the US

1337
00:50:52,380 --> 00:50:54,570
or whether you were
in Britain, was there

1338
00:50:54,570 --> 00:50:59,460
any official kind of talk?

1339
00:50:59,460 --> 00:51:02,352
And by official, I meant even
from your own direct report.

1340
00:51:02,352 --> 00:51:04,560
You know, the people you
reported to about, you know,

1341
00:51:04,560 --> 00:51:06,960
it's a little harder
for the Jews because--

1342
00:51:06,960 --> 00:51:07,950
No.

1343
00:51:07,950 --> 00:51:09,990
No news of that kind
of thing at all.

1344
00:51:09,990 --> 00:51:10,770
No, no.

1345
00:51:10,770 --> 00:51:13,380
If you're captured, get
rid of your dog tags,

1346
00:51:13,380 --> 00:51:14,730
things of that nature.

1347
00:51:14,730 --> 00:51:16,050
Nobody-- you were not--

1348
00:51:16,050 --> 00:51:17,720
there was no discussion.

1349
00:51:17,720 --> 00:51:19,032
Don't talk about it.

1350
00:51:19,032 --> 00:51:19,740
There were guys--

1351
00:51:19,740 --> 00:51:21,870
If you were captured, you
should get rid of your dog tags?

1352
00:51:21,870 --> 00:51:23,453
Nobody said that or
they did say that?

1353
00:51:23,453 --> 00:51:25,230
They didn't say that,
but guys did it.

1354
00:51:25,230 --> 00:51:25,830
OK.

1355
00:51:25,830 --> 00:51:30,150
The only problem is, that
you're really making yourself--

1356
00:51:30,150 --> 00:51:33,150
you're doing it, you're
stripping your ID,

1357
00:51:33,150 --> 00:51:35,490
and that's not a
good idea either.

1358
00:51:35,490 --> 00:51:36,780
And why isn't it?

1359
00:51:36,780 --> 00:51:39,480
For those of us who have
no idea why it isn't, why

1360
00:51:39,480 --> 00:51:40,470
isn't it a good idea?

1361
00:51:40,470 --> 00:51:47,350
Well you could be taken as a
spy or something, you know.

1362
00:51:47,350 --> 00:51:50,310
This is the only thing that
says you're only a soldier.

1363
00:51:50,310 --> 00:51:51,090
That's right.

1364
00:51:51,090 --> 00:51:51,980
OK.

1365
00:51:51,980 --> 00:51:52,560
OK.

1366
00:51:52,560 --> 00:52:01,900
It's to me, in looking back, it
had to be an antisemitic tinge

1367
00:52:01,900 --> 00:52:04,170
there somewhere, I feel.

1368
00:52:04,170 --> 00:52:08,520
And when I met the guys in my
group who had been at Berga

1369
00:52:08,520 --> 00:52:12,300
and who had really
suffered torture,

1370
00:52:12,300 --> 00:52:14,370
thoroughly because they

were Jewish soldiers.

1371
00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:16,573
They realized there
was something--

1372
00:52:16,573 --> 00:52:17,490
Something wrong there.

1373
00:52:17,490 --> 00:52:18,600
Something wrong somewhere.

1374
00:52:18,600 --> 00:52:19,500
OK.

1375
00:52:19,500 --> 00:52:21,090
Yeah.

1376
00:52:21,090 --> 00:52:24,480
So when you land
on Normandy beach,

1377
00:52:24,480 --> 00:52:28,170
what did you see besides
the German prisoners of war?

1378
00:52:28,170 --> 00:52:30,810
What was in front--
paint a picture for me.

1379
00:52:30,810 --> 00:52:37,890
Well, to me, a beach was
always a fun place, you know?

1380
00:52:37,890 --> 00:52:42,240
And suddenly, you
look around and you

1381
00:52:42,240 --> 00:52:47,310
see weapons and massive
trucks coming over the--

1382

00:52:47,310 --> 00:52:50,730
I mean, it was just a
different world there.

1383
00:52:50,730 --> 00:52:52,000
Was it cleaned up by then?

1384
00:52:52,000 --> 00:52:53,610
No, no, no.

1385
00:52:53,610 --> 00:52:56,310
No?

1386
00:52:56,310 --> 00:53:00,930
But tanks, huge tanks.

1387
00:53:00,930 --> 00:53:04,150
But I remember the
Germans, the soldiers.

1388
00:53:04,150 --> 00:53:08,340
And it was my first
contact, of course, with--

1389
00:53:08,340 --> 00:53:12,610
that's the war right
there, you know?

1390
00:53:12,610 --> 00:53:15,760
But we were told
get in the truck,

1391
00:53:15,760 --> 00:53:18,730
you're going to the 90th
Infantry Division, ba ba ba.

1392
00:53:18,730 --> 00:53:20,770
And they had it all figured out.

1393
00:53:20,770 --> 00:53:22,510
And you were gone.

1394

00:53:22,510 --> 00:53:23,020
All right.

1395
00:53:23,020 --> 00:53:25,690
So you're off of the beach.

1396
00:53:25,690 --> 00:53:28,390
You're in the truck, and
where were you taken?

1397
00:53:28,390 --> 00:53:35,560
You're taken up to your
division, your group.

1398
00:53:35,560 --> 00:53:41,050
And you find out that you're
a member of K Company, Third

1399
00:53:41,050 --> 00:53:44,620
Battalion, 90th Division.

1400
00:53:44,620 --> 00:53:54,380
And you're going to
be a mortar person.

1401
00:53:54,380 --> 00:53:56,120
A gun, mortar gun.

1402
00:53:56,120 --> 00:53:57,290
So what does that involve?

1403
00:53:57,290 --> 00:53:58,260
What does that mean,
being a mortar?

1404
00:53:58,260 --> 00:53:59,240
It means you're a man--

1405
00:53:59,240 --> 00:54:01,070
with a three-man crew.

1406
00:54:01,070 --> 00:54:04,130

And it's a weapon that you
see these long barrels.

1407
00:54:04,130 --> 00:54:04,880
Right.

1408
00:54:04,880 --> 00:54:07,520
And you drop a shell in.

1409
00:54:07,520 --> 00:54:11,060

1410
00:54:11,060 --> 00:54:14,690
and as a matter of fact,
because of the hedgerows,

1411
00:54:14,690 --> 00:54:20,720
that became the major weapon
because it had a lob to it,

1412
00:54:20,720 --> 00:54:22,540
and it goes over the--

1413
00:54:22,540 --> 00:54:23,420
The hedgerow.

1414
00:54:23,420 --> 00:54:24,350
Over the hedgerow.

1415
00:54:24,350 --> 00:54:25,560
So it was effective.

1416
00:54:25,560 --> 00:54:26,060
Hm?

1417
00:54:26,060 --> 00:54:27,185
It was an effective weapon.

1418
00:54:27,185 --> 00:54:29,290
The most effective
weapon we had.

1419
00:54:29,290 --> 00:54:30,560
OK.

1420
00:54:30,560 --> 00:54:32,550
We were very busy.

1421
00:54:32,550 --> 00:54:35,150
So once you are
assigned and you know

1422
00:54:35,150 --> 00:54:39,020
that you're in the 90th
Division, K Battalion, Third--

1423
00:54:39,020 --> 00:54:39,780
I forgot-- unit?

1424
00:54:39,780 --> 00:54:40,280
Battalion.

1425
00:54:40,280 --> 00:54:41,990
Third Battalion.

1426
00:54:41,990 --> 00:54:42,620
K Company.

1427
00:54:42,620 --> 00:54:43,490
K Company.

1428
00:54:43,490 --> 00:54:44,870
What does K Company mean?

1429
00:54:44,870 --> 00:54:49,550
Because the companies
are broken up.

1430
00:54:49,550 --> 00:54:51,830
Every battalion is
broken up into groups.

1431
00:54:51,830 --> 00:54:52,500

OK.

1432
00:54:52,500 --> 00:54:55,880
And there was A Company,
B Company, C Company.

1433
00:54:55,880 --> 00:54:56,390
All right.

1434
00:54:56,390 --> 00:54:58,350
And this group, the company.

1435
00:54:58,350 --> 00:55:01,010
So that's the way they
break it up, yeah.

1436
00:55:01,010 --> 00:55:01,670
OK.

1437
00:55:01,670 --> 00:55:03,890
And in that company,
they break it up

1438
00:55:03,890 --> 00:55:06,780
into different little groups.

1439
00:55:06,780 --> 00:55:10,120
And so what was your first
experience of active combat?

1440
00:55:10,120 --> 00:55:19,400

1441
00:55:19,400 --> 00:55:20,900
I should remember
that, shouldn't I?

1442
00:55:20,900 --> 00:55:21,470
Yeah.

1443
00:55:21,470 --> 00:55:23,600
Well, maybe not.

1444
00:55:23,600 --> 00:55:25,250
Maybe it was uneventful.

1445
00:55:25,250 --> 00:55:28,980

1446
00:55:28,980 --> 00:55:29,700
It was just--

1447
00:55:29,700 --> 00:55:32,940

1448
00:55:32,940 --> 00:55:34,650
What was the
countryside like then?

1449
00:55:34,650 --> 00:55:36,500
Well, it was off--

1450
00:55:36,500 --> 00:55:39,480
there was a lot of cows.

1451
00:55:39,480 --> 00:55:41,710
It was cow country.

1452
00:55:41,710 --> 00:55:45,150
And that's why the hedgerows
were very important

1453
00:55:45,150 --> 00:55:49,060
because a farmer could
keep control with it.

1454
00:55:49,060 --> 00:55:53,410
And then there were fields
and things of growing of food,

1455
00:55:53,410 --> 00:55:54,340
you know.

1456

00:55:54,340 --> 00:55:56,310
So it was a real farm country.

1457
00:55:56,310 --> 00:55:59,100
So were you fighting and cows
were grazing at the same time?

1458
00:55:59,100 --> 00:56:00,030
That's right.

1459
00:56:00,030 --> 00:56:01,230
That sounds so bizarre.

1460
00:56:01,230 --> 00:56:01,870
It is.

1461
00:56:01,870 --> 00:56:03,900
And the sad thing was
that you'd come up,

1462
00:56:03,900 --> 00:56:07,960
and you'd find the dead cows.

1463
00:56:07,960 --> 00:56:11,170
And you realized you
were the guy who did it.

1464
00:56:11,170 --> 00:56:14,310
And it's bothered
me a long time.

1465
00:56:14,310 --> 00:56:22,380
So we were-- but it
was a main struggle.

1466
00:56:22,380 --> 00:56:25,830
Day to day, you didn't
know whether you were going

1467
00:56:25,830 --> 00:56:27,550
to survive 'til the next day.

1468

00:56:27,550 --> 00:56:31,620
That's a tough, tough way to go.

1469
00:56:31,620 --> 00:56:35,007
And you don't know what
that does to your whole body

1470
00:56:35,007 --> 00:56:35,715
and your mindset.

1471
00:56:35,715 --> 00:56:40,370

1472
00:56:40,370 --> 00:56:44,010
When you talk about
post-traumatic stress,

1473
00:56:44,010 --> 00:56:47,750
but if we learned about,
you realize the months,

1474
00:56:47,750 --> 00:56:51,350
the days, the months that you
were doing this every day.

1475
00:56:51,350 --> 00:56:55,700
You had no idea if
you would survive.

1476
00:56:55,700 --> 00:56:57,470
So a lot of pressure.

1477
00:56:57,470 --> 00:56:59,210
Where would you sleep?

1478
00:56:59,210 --> 00:57:01,140
Foxholes.

1479
00:57:01,140 --> 00:57:03,660
OK.

1480
00:57:03,660 --> 00:57:05,550

You buddied up with somebody.

1481
00:57:05,550 --> 00:57:06,300
OK.

1482
00:57:06,300 --> 00:57:09,410
He had the shovel,
and you had a--

1483
00:57:09,410 --> 00:57:11,960
A pick of some kind?

1484
00:57:11,960 --> 00:57:12,780
I'm sorry?

1485
00:57:12,780 --> 00:57:13,690
A pick of some kind?

1486
00:57:13,690 --> 00:57:14,190
A pick.

1487
00:57:14,190 --> 00:57:14,860
A pick.

1488
00:57:14,860 --> 00:57:16,680
A pick and a shovel.

1489
00:57:16,680 --> 00:57:18,300
So that's the way they would--

1490
00:57:18,300 --> 00:57:20,910
so I would use the pick.

1491
00:57:20,910 --> 00:57:22,380
He would take the shovel.

1492
00:57:22,380 --> 00:57:27,120
And the two of us had
a hole for the night.

1493
00:57:27,120 --> 00:57:30,450

And that was our
home for the night.

1494
00:57:30,450 --> 00:57:33,570
That's why I sit
around here like this,

1495
00:57:33,570 --> 00:57:36,600
and I say, how
bad can things be?

1496
00:57:36,600 --> 00:57:39,610
Look how comfortable.

1497
00:57:39,610 --> 00:57:43,200
I found a very, very important
word in the dictionary.

1498
00:57:43,200 --> 00:57:44,040
What's that?

1499
00:57:44,040 --> 00:57:44,790
Perspective.

1500
00:57:44,790 --> 00:57:47,350

1501
00:57:47,350 --> 00:57:48,880
I tell my grandchildren.

1502
00:57:48,880 --> 00:57:52,540
I told them, think
about perspective.

1503
00:57:52,540 --> 00:57:54,220
You had to be there
to appreciate it.

1504
00:57:54,220 --> 00:57:54,720
Yeah.

1505
00:57:54,720 --> 00:57:56,470

And that is
something I learned--

1506
00:57:56,470 --> 00:57:58,080
I live with.

1507
00:57:58,080 --> 00:58:04,410
So when anybody says, I'm
an up person, I say, hey,

1508
00:58:04,410 --> 00:58:07,410
how bad can it be?

1509
00:58:07,410 --> 00:58:09,240
They're not shooting at you.

1510
00:58:09,240 --> 00:58:12,810
Because that was my
relationship with it.

1511
00:58:12,810 --> 00:58:17,640
Well, one wouldn't want
that experience on anyone.

1512
00:58:17,640 --> 00:58:19,400
No.

1513
00:58:19,400 --> 00:58:21,900
But going through
it, this is what

1514
00:58:21,900 --> 00:58:27,930
the result is, that it
prepares you to handle

1515
00:58:27,930 --> 00:58:31,190
most everything in life.

1516
00:58:31,190 --> 00:58:32,390
You think this is tough?

1517
00:58:32,390 --> 00:58:34,250

You should do that kind
of thing, you know.

1518
00:58:34,250 --> 00:58:34,750
Yeah.

1519
00:58:34,750 --> 00:58:37,760

1520
00:58:37,760 --> 00:58:44,870
So if I can repeat this and kind
of picture it in my own mind,

1521
00:58:44,870 --> 00:58:50,750
there you are in a field,
and you're near a hedgerow.

1522
00:58:50,750 --> 00:58:52,880
Is that where you would
dig the foxhole so you'd be

1523
00:58:52,880 --> 00:58:53,735
next to a hedgerow?

1524
00:58:53,735 --> 00:58:54,920
Yeah, normally.

1525
00:58:54,920 --> 00:58:55,830
Yeah.

1526
00:58:55,830 --> 00:58:56,330
Right.

1527
00:58:56,330 --> 00:58:58,970
And then there's another
field and another hedgerow,

1528
00:58:58,970 --> 00:59:01,370
and the Germans could
be behind that one.

1529
00:59:01,370 --> 00:59:02,420

And they had hedgerows.

1530

00:59:02,420 --> 00:59:04,040

And they had foxholes.

1531

00:59:04,040 --> 00:59:05,270

And they had foxholes.

1532

00:59:05,270 --> 00:59:08,150

And they also had mortar guns?

1533

00:59:08,150 --> 00:59:08,960

Yes, everybody.

1534

00:59:08,960 --> 00:59:09,460

Yeah.

1535

00:59:09,460 --> 00:59:10,160

OK.

1536

00:59:10,160 --> 00:59:13,070

So you're part of a
mortar group, three guys.

1537

00:59:13,070 --> 00:59:13,940

Yes, right.

1538

00:59:13,940 --> 00:59:14,450

A team.

1539

00:59:14,450 --> 00:59:17,490

And are there other
guys around you?

1540

00:59:17,490 --> 00:59:18,210

Yes, yes.

1541

00:59:18,210 --> 00:59:18,710

OK.

1542

00:59:18,710 --> 00:59:19,520

Yeah.

1543

00:59:19,520 --> 00:59:21,980

That's a squad.

1544

00:59:21,980 --> 00:59:24,290

There was platoons.

1545

00:59:24,290 --> 00:59:29,390

K Company is made up of
a number of platoons.

1546

00:59:29,390 --> 00:59:31,700

And the platoons are
broken up as a squad.

1547

00:59:31,700 --> 00:59:34,010

So it's all arranged.

1548

00:59:34,010 --> 00:59:36,380

And how many guys in a squad?

1549

00:59:36,380 --> 00:59:39,140

A squad is about a dozen.

1550

00:59:39,140 --> 00:59:43,880

A platoon maybe-- a platoon
may have 50 or 60 people.

1551

00:59:43,880 --> 00:59:48,120

And then the company
is a group of platoons.

1552

00:59:48,120 --> 00:59:48,620

OK.

1553

00:59:48,620 --> 00:59:52,430

So K Company is like four
platoons or something.

1554

00:59:52,430 --> 00:59:53,030

OK.

1555
00:59:53,030 --> 00:59:54,050
That's how it worked.

1556
00:59:54,050 --> 00:59:57,680
And would you, for
example, were you

1557
00:59:57,680 --> 01:00:00,350
in stalemates where you would
be on your side of the hedgerow

1558
01:00:00,350 --> 01:00:03,110
and someone else would be on
another side for days on end

1559
01:00:03,110 --> 01:00:04,650
or would you make progress?

1560
01:00:04,650 --> 01:00:06,110
We made progress.

1561
01:00:06,110 --> 01:00:07,940
In the early-- yeah.

1562
01:00:07,940 --> 01:00:12,260
We were moving because we
came in with a huge amount

1563
01:00:12,260 --> 01:00:15,050
of equipment and men.

1564
01:00:15,050 --> 01:00:17,510
So the Germans were
really-- and the Germans--

1565
01:00:17,510 --> 01:00:19,980
[PHONE RINGING]

1566
01:00:19,980 --> 01:00:20,840
OK.

1567

01:00:20,840 --> 01:00:22,820

More explanation
on the division.

1568

01:00:22,820 --> 01:00:27,080

Yeah, the division consists
of the 357th and 358th

1569

01:00:27,080 --> 01:00:29,450

and the 359th Regiments.

1570

01:00:29,450 --> 01:00:29,960

OK.

1571

01:00:29,960 --> 01:00:32,600

The regiments have battalions.

1572

01:00:32,600 --> 01:00:38,030

Battalions have companies,
and companies have platoons.

1573

01:00:38,030 --> 01:00:39,120

And platoons have squads.

1574

01:00:39,120 --> 01:00:39,620

And squads.

1575

01:00:39,620 --> 01:00:40,347

So that's the--

1576

01:00:40,347 --> 01:00:41,180

That's the sequence.

1577

01:00:41,180 --> 01:00:41,930

That's the sequence.

1578

01:00:41,930 --> 01:00:42,500

OK.

1579

01:00:42,500 --> 01:00:45,360

So I was a member of the 358th.

1580
01:00:45,360 --> 01:00:45,860
Regiment.

1581
01:00:45,860 --> 01:00:46,690
Regiment.

1582
01:00:46,690 --> 01:00:47,190
OK.

1583
01:00:47,190 --> 01:00:57,690
K Company, Third
Battalion, fourth platoon.

1584
01:00:57,690 --> 01:00:58,190
OK.

1585
01:00:58,190 --> 01:01:01,790
The fourth platoon was
called Heavy Weapons Platoon.

1586
01:01:01,790 --> 01:01:03,710
The other guys all had rifles.

1587
01:01:03,710 --> 01:01:04,250
OK.

1588
01:01:04,250 --> 01:01:06,650
We were the ones
with the mortars.

1589
01:01:06,650 --> 01:01:07,740
Did you have rifles too?

1590
01:01:07,740 --> 01:01:08,240
No.

1591
01:01:08,240 --> 01:01:09,880
We had pistols.

1592
01:01:09,880 --> 01:01:11,060

Pistols?

1593

01:01:11,060 --> 01:01:11,930

And we had pistols.

1594

01:01:11,930 --> 01:01:14,120

But our weapon was the mortar.

1595

01:01:14,120 --> 01:01:14,810

OK.

1596

01:01:14,810 --> 01:01:17,010

And so that's the way the--

1597

01:01:17,010 --> 01:01:17,510

OK.

1598

01:01:17,510 --> 01:01:20,840

The only way--

1599

01:01:20,840 --> 01:01:26,090

So you were saying
before that there

1600

01:01:26,090 --> 01:01:28,790

was a lot of equipment that
came over with the invasion.

1601

01:01:28,790 --> 01:01:29,930

Yes.

1602

01:01:29,930 --> 01:01:33,380

and we really were overpowering.

1603

01:01:33,380 --> 01:01:36,980

So the Germans were constantly--
but it was very slow

1604

01:01:36,980 --> 01:01:39,830

because of the hedgerows.

1605

01:01:39,830 --> 01:01:42,180
But there was a
constant movement.

1606
01:01:42,180 --> 01:01:42,680
OK.

1607
01:01:42,680 --> 01:01:45,350

1608
01:01:45,350 --> 01:01:48,110
So would it be
that you'd wake up

1609
01:01:48,110 --> 01:01:52,440
and the next day you have
gone over to the other field?

1610
01:01:52,440 --> 01:01:53,060
That's right.

1611
01:01:53,060 --> 01:01:54,530
OK?

1612
01:01:54,530 --> 01:01:59,960
But when we finally got
to this, call it a hill,

1613
01:01:59,960 --> 01:02:02,480
our first major, major battle.

1614
01:02:02,480 --> 01:02:03,230
OK.

1615
01:02:03,230 --> 01:02:05,692
And this was July now.

1616
01:02:05,692 --> 01:02:06,650
This was a month later.

1617
01:02:06,650 --> 01:02:08,930
A month we're there.

1618
01:02:08,930 --> 01:02:11,000
And we've only gone--

1619
01:02:11,000 --> 01:02:11,870
How long?

1620
01:02:11,870 --> 01:02:12,620
Kilometer?

1621
01:02:12,620 --> 01:02:14,660
A mile?

1622
01:02:14,660 --> 01:02:15,920
10, 20 miles.

1623
01:02:15,920 --> 01:02:16,580
OK.

1624
01:02:16,580 --> 01:02:18,920
I mean, it was movement but--

1625
01:02:18,920 --> 01:02:19,490
Slow.

1626
01:02:19,490 --> 01:02:20,930
Slow.

1627
01:02:20,930 --> 01:02:25,130
And this is where I got
involved with the Germans.

1628
01:02:25,130 --> 01:02:26,405
This was called Hill 122.

1629
01:02:26,405 --> 01:02:28,460
It was the Foray.

1630
01:02:28,460 --> 01:02:30,280
It was a hilly--

1631

01:02:30,280 --> 01:02:36,080

a forested hill,
[SPEAKING FRENCH]..

1632

01:02:36,080 --> 01:02:37,790

And the Germans had really--

1633

01:02:37,790 --> 01:02:42,710

and it was a very important
point because from that hill,

1634

01:02:42,710 --> 01:02:45,290

they could have--

1635

01:02:45,290 --> 01:02:45,860

A view.

1636

01:02:45,860 --> 01:02:46,580

--a view.

1637

01:02:46,580 --> 01:02:49,830

They could see the landing
area, for instance.

1638

01:02:49,830 --> 01:02:53,968

The whole-- they could watch
and see what was going on.

1639

01:02:53,968 --> 01:02:55,010

So it was pretty high up.

1640

01:02:55,010 --> 01:02:55,880

It was high up.

1641

01:02:55,880 --> 01:02:57,020

Yeah.

1642

01:02:57,020 --> 01:03:00,560

And we finally got on top.

1643

01:03:00,560 --> 01:03:03,560

The Germans retreated.

1644
01:03:03,560 --> 01:03:07,220
And they went down that way.

1645
01:03:07,220 --> 01:03:10,490
So we followed them.

1646
01:03:10,490 --> 01:03:13,290
And this is where, I think,
they were expecting us.

1647
01:03:13,290 --> 01:03:15,110
They encircled us.

1648
01:03:15,110 --> 01:03:17,270
And that's how I got trapped.

1649
01:03:17,270 --> 01:03:21,440
So I ended up being
wounded and taken prisoner.

1650
01:03:21,440 --> 01:03:25,000
It was July, July 10.

1651
01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:28,370
You hadn't even
been there a month.

1652
01:03:28,370 --> 01:03:29,510
OK.

1653
01:03:29,510 --> 01:03:33,950
It was a short war
but very intense.

1654
01:03:33,950 --> 01:03:36,020
OK.

1655
01:03:36,020 --> 01:03:38,900
What do you remember after
being taken prisoner?

1656
01:03:38,900 --> 01:03:43,130
Well this, of
course, I remember.

1657
01:03:43,130 --> 01:03:51,170
Now, I was wounded by a--

1658
01:03:51,170 --> 01:03:55,310
a German threw a grenade at me,
and it caught me in my thigh.

1659
01:03:55,310 --> 01:03:58,720
I was wounded.

1660
01:03:58,720 --> 01:04:00,550
And I was on the ground.

1661
01:04:00,550 --> 01:04:03,550
And I looked up, and there
was this guy with a gun.

1662
01:04:03,550 --> 01:04:07,780
And my buddy is a kid over here.

1663
01:04:07,780 --> 01:04:10,030
And the two of us looked up.

1664
01:04:10,030 --> 01:04:13,810
He got up and starting to run.

1665
01:04:13,810 --> 01:04:15,490
You don't do that.

1666
01:04:15,490 --> 01:04:20,210
And the German just
turned and shot him.

1667
01:04:20,210 --> 01:04:21,740
So I put my hands up.

1668

01:04:21,740 --> 01:04:23,540
Do you remember his name?

1669
01:04:23,540 --> 01:04:24,530
The kid who was--

1670
01:04:24,530 --> 01:04:26,390
I didn't know his name, no.

1671
01:04:26,390 --> 01:04:28,890
I had another-- the
guy that I buddied

1672
01:04:28,890 --> 01:04:32,450
with, with the pick and
the shovel, was named Mike.

1673
01:04:32,450 --> 01:04:35,120
He and I were the ones that
shared the foxhole together.

1674
01:04:35,120 --> 01:04:39,560
But this guy was caught with me.

1675
01:04:39,560 --> 01:04:43,790
Now, the moment you
put your hands up,

1676
01:04:43,790 --> 01:04:48,260
there's a moment there
which is another--

1677
01:04:48,260 --> 01:04:55,220
it's a special world of stepping
from one world to another.

1678
01:04:55,220 --> 01:04:59,690
I mean, being an independent
and suddenly being a prisoner

1679
01:04:59,690 --> 01:05:02,360
is tough.

1680

01:05:02,360 --> 01:05:08,490

And here, I suddenly
realized the H on my dog tag.

1681

01:05:08,490 --> 01:05:13,190

So that's when everything sort
of comes together with you.

1682

01:05:13,190 --> 01:05:18,530

And he got me, and we
gathered a few other guys

1683

01:05:18,530 --> 01:05:20,660

that were trapped.

1684

01:05:20,660 --> 01:05:23,000

And they marched us back.

1685

01:05:23,000 --> 01:05:25,070

Do you remember what he
looked like, this German?

1686

01:05:25,070 --> 01:05:25,910

No.

1687

01:05:25,910 --> 01:05:30,710

I know what he was
wearing a uniform that--

1688

01:05:30,710 --> 01:05:34,310

he was a member of the
special Hermann Goering--

1689

01:05:34,310 --> 01:05:36,790

you know Goering?

1690

01:05:36,790 --> 01:05:43,926

It was like a special unit,
and they wore a special color.

1691

01:05:43,926 --> 01:05:46,120

They were really--

1692
01:05:46,120 --> 01:05:47,910
So you were able
to identify that.

1693
01:05:47,910 --> 01:05:48,410
I couldn't.

1694
01:05:48,410 --> 01:05:50,960
I just learned later
on that he was--

1695
01:05:50,960 --> 01:05:53,220
I was wondering
why he was that--

1696
01:05:53,220 --> 01:05:55,550
they were a special group.

1697
01:05:55,550 --> 01:05:57,260
OK.

1698
01:05:57,260 --> 01:06:00,270
And he got me to the back.

1699
01:06:00,270 --> 01:06:03,050
And then we were
herded all together,

1700
01:06:03,050 --> 01:06:06,580
and we encamped that
night with the Germans.

1701
01:06:06,580 --> 01:06:09,800
Slept with the German side.

1702
01:06:09,800 --> 01:06:11,520
And how many of you were there?

1703
01:06:11,520 --> 01:06:15,350
Maybe about 20 or 30 guys, yeah.

1704

01:06:15,350 --> 01:06:16,970

And then the next
day, they got us up.

1705

01:06:16,970 --> 01:06:19,030

And they put us on the road.

1706

01:06:19,030 --> 01:06:21,740

And they were going to
march us to the back.

1707

01:06:21,740 --> 01:06:24,950

And suddenly, all this
dust was going up.

1708

01:06:24,950 --> 01:06:27,980

It was a nice hot July day.

1709

01:06:27,980 --> 01:06:33,200

And my group, the 90th,
saw the Germans gathering.

1710

01:06:33,200 --> 01:06:34,970

They thought we
were all Germans.

1711

01:06:34,970 --> 01:06:36,800

And they fired on us.

1712

01:06:36,800 --> 01:06:38,030

And that was my second one.

1713

01:06:38,030 --> 01:06:39,320

What was when I got my--

1714

01:06:39,320 --> 01:06:41,660

so I was wounded by my own--

1715

01:06:41,660 --> 01:06:43,640

So I was going to
ask, if you had

1716

01:06:43,640 --> 01:06:48,290

gotten wounded here in the
thigh, could you still walk?

1717

01:06:48,290 --> 01:06:52,770

I could walk, but my buddy,
Mike, was walking with me.

1718

01:06:52,770 --> 01:06:53,650

He had his--

1719

01:06:53,650 --> 01:06:55,590

You your arm around him.

1720

01:06:55,590 --> 01:06:56,090

Yes.

1721

01:06:56,090 --> 01:06:56,610

Yeah.

1722

01:06:56,610 --> 01:06:57,140

OK.

1723

01:06:57,140 --> 01:06:59,300

So he and I, yeah.

1724

01:06:59,300 --> 01:07:03,350

Then when the shell
hit, the group of us,

1725

01:07:03,350 --> 01:07:04,700

we all went up the air.

1726

01:07:04,700 --> 01:07:08,580

I came down, and
he didn't survive.

1727

01:07:08,580 --> 01:07:11,960

And I think I was about one of
the few, maybe the only one,

1728

01:07:11,960 --> 01:07:13,790
who did.

1729
01:07:13,790 --> 01:07:16,670
And that's where my
leg was shattered.

1730
01:07:16,670 --> 01:07:19,220
So I ended up in this farmhouse.

1731
01:07:19,220 --> 01:07:22,220
And of course, the Germans
had a field hospital

1732
01:07:22,220 --> 01:07:24,500
in this farmhouse.

1733
01:07:24,500 --> 01:07:28,160
And they took me in
the kitchen and put me

1734
01:07:28,160 --> 01:07:32,000
on this kitchen table.

1735
01:07:32,000 --> 01:07:38,690
And the doctor came over and
says to me-- heavy accent--

1736
01:07:38,690 --> 01:07:41,630
for you, the war is over.

1737
01:07:41,630 --> 01:07:45,160
And then he grabbed my dog tag.

1738
01:07:45,160 --> 01:07:47,650
And he says what's this H?

1739
01:07:47,650 --> 01:07:50,860

1740
01:07:50,860 --> 01:07:53,360
At that moment, I said goodbye.

1741
01:07:53,360 --> 01:07:55,120
I really did not think I'd--

1742
01:07:55,120 --> 01:07:57,610
I says, there goes
my 20th birthday.

1743
01:07:57,610 --> 01:08:04,420
I absolutely-- at the moment,
you just cannot explain.

1744
01:08:04,420 --> 01:08:09,010
But I don't how many people get
to that point who say goodbye,

1745
01:08:09,010 --> 01:08:10,930
but I did.

1746
01:08:10,930 --> 01:08:18,880
And then I woke up in the
barn on a straw in the back.

1747
01:08:18,880 --> 01:08:24,279
And I looked down, and I
see one foot and that's--

1748
01:08:24,279 --> 01:08:26,846
I said, but at least I'm--

1749
01:08:26,846 --> 01:08:28,990
I didn't expect to wake up.

1750
01:08:28,990 --> 01:08:33,270
And then I reached around,
and I see my dog tag was gone.

1751
01:08:33,270 --> 01:08:37,450
They could take the
dog tag, and later on I

1752
01:08:37,450 --> 01:08:39,310

found it in my pocket.

1753

01:08:39,310 --> 01:08:45,430

He had written me a note,
what he had done and why,

1754

01:08:45,430 --> 01:08:46,910

and signed it.

1755

01:08:46,910 --> 01:08:49,465

And this is what my
story is all about.

1756

01:08:49,465 --> 01:08:50,590

This is the doctor that I--

1757

01:08:50,590 --> 01:08:51,130

Tell me.

1758

01:08:51,130 --> 01:08:53,560

The family that I've
gotten involved with.

1759

01:08:53,560 --> 01:08:55,000

Well, we'll come to that.

1760

01:08:55,000 --> 01:08:57,680

But I have a couple
of questions before.

1761

01:08:57,680 --> 01:08:59,020

So this was the moment that--

1762

01:08:59,020 --> 01:09:03,124

you have to understand, this
was why I'm so involved.

1763

01:09:03,124 --> 01:09:06,640

1764

01:09:06,640 --> 01:09:10,330

I'm surprised that the

Germans actually didn't just

1765

01:09:10,330 --> 01:09:12,279

let you die, you know?

1766

01:09:12,279 --> 01:09:14,630

They took you into

this farmhouse.

1767

01:09:14,630 --> 01:09:15,130

Right.

1768

01:09:15,130 --> 01:09:16,838

Because they could

have easily done that.

1769

01:09:16,838 --> 01:09:17,859

Correct.

1770

01:09:17,859 --> 01:09:21,100

But you have to

understand, this was--

1771

01:09:21,100 --> 01:09:26,590

if it wasn't-- this was

a military operation.

1772

01:09:26,590 --> 01:09:29,500

They have prisoners

that were taken.

1773

01:09:29,500 --> 01:09:31,810

So we're exchanging.

1774

01:09:31,810 --> 01:09:33,939

They want their prisoners

to be taken care of,

1775

01:09:33,939 --> 01:09:35,229

that kind of thing.

1776

01:09:35,229 --> 01:09:35,830

OK.

1777

01:09:35,830 --> 01:09:38,560

So there's a
self-interested reason

1778

01:09:38,560 --> 01:09:39,700

why they wouldn't do that.

1779

01:09:39,700 --> 01:09:40,990

OK.

1780

01:09:40,990 --> 01:09:44,830

And so now tell me--

1781

01:09:44,830 --> 01:09:47,950

OK, so now we understand why
they would take you into that--

1782

01:09:47,950 --> 01:09:50,689

1783

01:09:50,689 --> 01:09:51,680

Medical unit.

1784

01:09:51,680 --> 01:09:53,590

That medical unit,
that farmhouse,

1785

01:09:53,590 --> 01:09:55,780

and whatever they set up there.

1786

01:09:55,780 --> 01:10:02,170

And there is that doctor
who asks you, was ist das,

1787

01:10:02,170 --> 01:10:04,820

and for you, the war is over.

1788

01:10:04,820 --> 01:10:07,610

I just closed my eyes
and never said a word.

1789
01:10:07,610 --> 01:10:09,120
And then you black out.

1790
01:10:09,120 --> 01:10:09,905
Right.

1791
01:10:09,905 --> 01:10:10,405
OK.

1792
01:10:10,405 --> 01:10:13,390

1793
01:10:13,390 --> 01:10:16,320
And what is it that you
find in your pocket?

1794
01:10:16,320 --> 01:10:17,920
It was a card.

1795
01:10:17,920 --> 01:10:20,570
Like a postcard that he had
written-- matter of fact,

1796
01:10:20,570 --> 01:10:25,090
interesting was it had
Hitler writings on it.

1797
01:10:25,090 --> 01:10:28,990
It was like a card that you
would send home from there,

1798
01:10:28,990 --> 01:10:30,100
you know, the army.

1799
01:10:30,100 --> 01:10:31,360
OK.

1800
01:10:31,360 --> 01:10:34,750
And he wrote on
it, and I have it.

1801
01:10:34,750 --> 01:10:36,170
You have the card still?

1802
01:10:36,170 --> 01:10:36,670
No.

1803
01:10:36,670 --> 01:10:37,170
I don't.

1804
01:10:37,170 --> 01:10:41,110
The card, I gave
it to the widow.

1805
01:10:41,110 --> 01:10:43,330
It's hanging in her--

1806
01:10:43,330 --> 01:10:43,840
OK.

1807
01:10:43,840 --> 01:10:44,590
Yeah.

1808
01:10:44,590 --> 01:10:46,520
I have a picture of
it I'll show you.

1809
01:10:46,520 --> 01:10:49,360

1810
01:10:49,360 --> 01:10:52,330
When we went to visit
her, I brought--

1811
01:10:52,330 --> 01:10:55,040
The card.

1812
01:10:55,040 --> 01:11:03,530
To me, this man had already
saved me, I think, I believe.

1813
01:11:03,530 --> 01:11:10,370

But that he represented
something, a human element

1814
01:11:10,370 --> 01:11:13,010
that I recognized.

1815
01:11:13,010 --> 01:11:14,540
So what did he write there?

1816
01:11:14,540 --> 01:11:18,500
What was written on
the back of that card?

1817
01:11:18,500 --> 01:11:21,230
Well, just that what he had
done with the medication,

1818
01:11:21,230 --> 01:11:25,220
and it was a medical
report, you know.

1819
01:11:25,220 --> 01:11:27,870
This is what I know what he did.

1820
01:11:27,870 --> 01:11:28,370
OK.

1821
01:11:28,370 --> 01:11:29,570
So he took your leg off.

1822
01:11:29,570 --> 01:11:30,440
He did.

1823
01:11:30,440 --> 01:11:31,280
He did.

1824
01:11:31,280 --> 01:11:34,635
He took your leg off, and then
what medication he gave you?

1825
01:11:34,635 --> 01:11:35,300
As well.

1826
01:11:35,300 --> 01:11:36,860
And he took the dog tags off?

1827
01:11:36,860 --> 01:11:37,670
Correct.

1828
01:11:37,670 --> 01:11:38,330
I don't know.

1829
01:11:38,330 --> 01:11:39,840
He just got rid of them.

1830
01:11:39,840 --> 01:11:42,780
But I believe he realized--

1831
01:11:42,780 --> 01:11:44,760
he knew what the H was on there.

1832
01:11:44,760 --> 01:11:45,770
Yeah.

1833
01:11:45,770 --> 01:11:46,820
And this was not--

1834
01:11:46,820 --> 01:11:50,013
and he didn't know if I was
going to end up with who,

1835
01:11:50,013 --> 01:11:50,513
you know?

1836
01:11:50,513 --> 01:11:51,460
Yeah.

1837
01:11:51,460 --> 01:11:52,280
Yeah.

1838
01:11:52,280 --> 01:11:55,020
The SS were the guy who--

1839
01:11:55,020 --> 01:11:56,690
the bad guys.

1840
01:11:56,690 --> 01:11:58,340
And you might not
have made it to Berga

1841
01:11:58,340 --> 01:12:01,710
with your shattered leg.

1842
01:12:01,710 --> 01:12:03,360
And then he signed his name.

1843
01:12:03,360 --> 01:12:04,650
Mm-hmm.

1844
01:12:04,650 --> 01:12:06,430
Now, this must have
been in German.

1845
01:12:06,430 --> 01:12:06,930
Yes.

1846
01:12:06,930 --> 01:12:08,400
Yes.

1847
01:12:08,400 --> 01:12:09,912
I had no idea what--

1848
01:12:09,912 --> 01:12:11,370
But I just saved
it and then had it

1849
01:12:11,370 --> 01:12:13,800
translated a long time later.

1850
01:12:13,800 --> 01:12:14,820
OK.

1851
01:12:14,820 --> 01:12:15,930
So what was your--

1852
01:12:15,930 --> 01:12:18,210
what was the rest of your--

1853
01:12:18,210 --> 01:12:20,310
what happened to you after that?

1854
01:12:20,310 --> 01:12:23,290
There you are, you
wake up in the barn.

1855
01:12:23,290 --> 01:12:27,630
Well, they now-- and I only
realized this after we had

1856
01:12:27,630 --> 01:12:32,790
traveled there years later, from
that spot to where I ended up

1857
01:12:32,790 --> 01:12:36,110
at the hospital in
the city of Rennes--

1858
01:12:36,110 --> 01:12:43,890
R-E-N-N-E-S-- and it was a
former school house that had

1859
01:12:43,890 --> 01:12:47,940
been converted into
a POW hospital.

1860
01:12:47,940 --> 01:12:56,070
And we had medical people
that were captured, doctors.

1861
01:12:56,070 --> 01:12:58,560
And our own--

1862
01:12:58,560 --> 01:12:59,370
Your own guys.

1863
01:12:59,370 --> 01:13:01,410

Our own guys.

1864
01:13:01,410 --> 01:13:06,150
And the Gestapo was
outside patrolling.

1865
01:13:06,150 --> 01:13:09,780
So this was where I ended
up in this hospital.

1866
01:13:09,780 --> 01:13:16,560
It was really a stalag.

1867
01:13:16,560 --> 01:13:19,560
It had a number, 122
or something like that.

1868
01:13:19,560 --> 01:13:21,690
So it was a prison camp,
but it was a hospital

1869
01:13:21,690 --> 01:13:22,648
within the prison camp.

1870
01:13:22,648 --> 01:13:23,190
That's right.

1871
01:13:23,190 --> 01:13:23,700
Prison.

1872
01:13:23,700 --> 01:13:24,820
That's right.

1873
01:13:24,820 --> 01:13:27,810
And did then you come
under the care of captured

1874
01:13:27,810 --> 01:13:28,848
allied medical people?

1875
01:13:28,848 --> 01:13:29,390
That's right.

1876
01:13:29,390 --> 01:13:33,780
We had French and
American medical people.

1877
01:13:33,780 --> 01:13:35,540
The nurses, matter of fact--

1878
01:13:35,540 --> 01:13:36,040
interesting.

1879
01:13:36,040 --> 01:13:39,560
The nurses were
students, student nurses,

1880
01:13:39,560 --> 01:13:41,790
at the University of Rennes.

1881
01:13:41,790 --> 01:13:47,250
And they would take it
on to take care of us.

1882
01:13:47,250 --> 01:13:48,780
And I had a note from--

1883
01:13:48,780 --> 01:13:51,622
I finally found out who she was.

1884
01:13:51,622 --> 01:13:53,080
Well, I'll tell
you all about that.

1885
01:13:53,080 --> 01:13:53,850
OK.

1886
01:13:53,850 --> 01:13:58,380
So when you come under the
care of these people, you know,

1887
01:13:58,380 --> 01:14:01,110
the Allied captured
medical folks,

1888
01:14:01,110 --> 01:14:03,190
do you tell them who you are?

1889
01:14:03,190 --> 01:14:03,690
Oh, yeah.

1890
01:14:03,690 --> 01:14:04,190
Yeah.

1891
01:14:04,190 --> 01:14:04,890
Yeah.

1892
01:14:04,890 --> 01:14:05,910
I had no dog tags.

1893
01:14:05,910 --> 01:14:07,090
That was my problem.

1894
01:14:07,090 --> 01:14:08,370
I had no ID.

1895
01:14:08,370 --> 01:14:09,870
OK.

1896
01:14:09,870 --> 01:14:12,780
But at least I was--

1897
01:14:12,780 --> 01:14:13,680
With your own folks.

1898
01:14:13,680 --> 01:14:15,240
I was with my own people.

1899
01:14:15,240 --> 01:14:16,410
And how did they handle it?

1900
01:14:16,410 --> 01:14:18,012
Did they say, OK,
just keep quiet.

1901

01:14:18,012 --> 01:14:19,470

Don't tell the
Germans or anything.

1902

01:14:19,470 --> 01:14:20,610

No, no.

1903

01:14:20,610 --> 01:14:22,350

Nobody-- we just--

1904

01:14:22,350 --> 01:14:22,950

OK.

1905

01:14:22,950 --> 01:14:27,510

Just said nothing, and
nobody said nothing.

1906

01:14:27,510 --> 01:14:32,710

They really have very little in
the way of medical equipment.

1907

01:14:32,710 --> 01:14:35,340

So the treatment was minimal.

1908

01:14:35,340 --> 01:14:39,450

They just changed the
bandage, kept it clean.

1909

01:14:39,450 --> 01:14:40,560

Were you in pain?

1910

01:14:40,560 --> 01:14:41,910

No.

1911

01:14:41,910 --> 01:14:43,210

Amazing.

1912

01:14:43,210 --> 01:14:47,760

It was just-- it was they
call a guillotine amputation.

1913

01:14:47,760 --> 01:14:49,830
They just cut it.

1914
01:14:49,830 --> 01:14:54,160
There's no attempt to
close it or anything.

1915
01:14:54,160 --> 01:14:57,460
It's healed by itself.

1916
01:14:57,460 --> 01:15:00,760
So I had to have a additional
operation later on.

1917
01:15:00,760 --> 01:15:01,260
OK.

1918
01:15:01,260 --> 01:15:04,340

1919
01:15:04,340 --> 01:15:08,280
It was tough.

1920
01:15:08,280 --> 01:15:14,220
But we were-- there were
hundreds and hundreds

1921
01:15:14,220 --> 01:15:17,130
of POWs wounded.

1922
01:15:17,130 --> 01:15:22,530
And the room that I was
in was the dining room

1923
01:15:22,530 --> 01:15:25,330
of the school, the mess hall.

1924
01:15:25,330 --> 01:15:27,900
It was a big, big room.

1925
01:15:27,900 --> 01:15:36,510
And we have a lot of

guys bumped up, right.

1926

01:15:36,510 --> 01:15:38,475

So they just managed it.

1927

01:15:38,475 --> 01:15:42,810

It was July-- that was July 11.

1928

01:15:42,810 --> 01:15:44,100

So two days after.

1929

01:15:44,100 --> 01:15:46,082

Well, July 11 was the--

1930

01:15:46,082 --> 01:15:47,220

yeah, two days.

1931

01:15:47,220 --> 01:15:49,650

After this capture.

1932

01:15:49,650 --> 01:15:50,730

July 9, I think you said?

1933

01:15:50,730 --> 01:15:51,230

No.

1934

01:15:51,230 --> 01:15:54,030

July 10 I was captured.

1935

01:15:54,030 --> 01:15:55,530

That night I spent
with the Germans.

1936

01:15:55,530 --> 01:15:57,570

And the next day I
was wounded again.

1937

01:15:57,570 --> 01:15:58,350

OK.

1938

01:15:58,350 --> 01:16:03,000

And the 11th, I ended
up taking the operation.

1939
01:16:03,000 --> 01:16:09,030
May have been I may have spent
the night in the slop house.

1940
01:16:09,030 --> 01:16:10,140
And they put me--

1941
01:16:10,140 --> 01:16:12,480
oh, interesting also.

1942
01:16:12,480 --> 01:16:17,250
They put me in this wagon
with a couple of other guys.

1943
01:16:17,250 --> 01:16:20,220
And we went to this terrain.

1944
01:16:20,220 --> 01:16:24,330
But until I did it myself,
I realized it was a trip.

1945
01:16:24,330 --> 01:16:26,160
About how long?

1946
01:16:26,160 --> 01:16:27,270
It was a long trip.

1947
01:16:27,270 --> 01:16:30,820

1948
01:16:30,820 --> 01:16:34,680
And the effort that
they made really

1949
01:16:34,680 --> 01:16:38,220
impressed me, the fact that
they would go to that effort

1950
01:16:38,220 --> 01:16:41,490

to send me to this.

1951

01:16:41,490 --> 01:16:44,980

But it was a big truck.

1952

01:16:44,980 --> 01:16:52,515

And as I started to go, the
door next to me opened up.

1953

01:16:52,515 --> 01:16:54,240

And a guy put his head in.

1954

01:16:54,240 --> 01:16:55,890

He said Americana.

1955

01:16:55,890 --> 01:16:57,540

I think, here.

1956

01:16:57,540 --> 01:17:01,795

He took out something
and he give me a shot.

1957

01:17:01,795 --> 01:17:02,670

Isn't that something?

1958

01:17:02,670 --> 01:17:06,962

I mean, that kind
of care was just--

1959

01:17:06,962 --> 01:17:07,920

and he closed the door.

1960

01:17:07,920 --> 01:17:09,170

You wouldn't have expected it.

1961

01:17:09,170 --> 01:17:10,990

No, no.

1962

01:17:10,990 --> 01:17:12,580

So they made an effort.

1963

01:17:12,580 --> 01:17:13,080
Yeah.

1964
01:17:13,080 --> 01:17:16,380

1965
01:17:16,380 --> 01:17:21,120
And how long were you in
the ven, in this Stalag 122?

1966
01:17:21,120 --> 01:17:22,602
About a month.

1967
01:17:22,602 --> 01:17:24,550
OK.

1968
01:17:24,550 --> 01:17:25,840
About the middle of August.

1969
01:17:25,840 --> 01:17:28,560
And so the nurses
were local girls.

1970
01:17:28,560 --> 01:17:30,390
They were students
at the university.

1971
01:17:30,390 --> 01:17:32,220
And the Germans
let them in to help

1972
01:17:32,220 --> 01:17:33,660
take care of the prisoners.

1973
01:17:33,660 --> 01:17:34,530
Mm-hmm.

1974
01:17:34,530 --> 01:17:35,680
OK.

1975
01:17:35,680 --> 01:17:41,000
It was all some big arrangement

with the local townspeople.

1976

01:17:41,000 --> 01:17:44,940

1977

01:17:44,940 --> 01:17:48,520

Do you remember the food, what kind of food they gave you?

1978

01:17:48,520 --> 01:17:51,716

To this day, I can't eat boiled potatoes.

1979

01:17:51,716 --> 01:17:54,840

[CHUCKLES]

1980

01:17:54,840 --> 01:17:58,440

That was what it was?

1981

01:17:58,440 --> 01:18:00,190

There must have been a potato farm nearby.

1982

01:18:00,190 --> 01:18:03,040

1983

01:18:03,040 --> 01:18:08,432

Boiled potatoes and not very much else.

1984

01:18:08,432 --> 01:18:10,390

Some vegetables, like some sort of green stuff.

1985

01:18:10,390 --> 01:18:15,220

1986

01:18:15,220 --> 01:18:17,380

What was your mental state like at that point?

1987

01:18:17,380 --> 01:18:20,980

Were you kind of in a shock or--

1988

01:18:20,980 --> 01:18:25,540

You know, amazing what
19-year-old minds,

1989

01:18:25,540 --> 01:18:28,490

you really can take a lot of--

1990

01:18:28,490 --> 01:18:30,150

I just slept well.

1991

01:18:30,150 --> 01:18:32,790

1992

01:18:32,790 --> 01:18:35,310

I had no real pain.

1993

01:18:35,310 --> 01:18:37,320

So I was fortunate.

1994

01:18:37,320 --> 01:18:43,020

But had this several days,
they would take the bandage off

1995

01:18:43,020 --> 01:18:44,280

and clean it.

1996

01:18:44,280 --> 01:18:46,710

That was touch and go.

1997

01:18:46,710 --> 01:18:48,570

There was no painkillers.

1998

01:18:48,570 --> 01:18:50,354

No painkillers.

1999

01:18:50,354 --> 01:18:51,210

Ooh.

2000

01:18:51,210 --> 01:18:53,160

And no infection?

2001

01:18:53,160 --> 01:18:56,856

And that's what-- they
were kept clean. yeah.

2002

01:18:56,856 --> 01:18:59,064

No infection.

2003

01:18:59,064 --> 01:19:01,400

I got some kind of healing.

2004

01:19:01,400 --> 01:19:07,000

In a month, the
skin can do a lot.

2005

01:19:07,000 --> 01:19:14,730

And then suddenly, Rennes
was being attacked by us.

2006

01:19:14,730 --> 01:19:20,490

And there was a
shelling, and my bed

2007

01:19:20,490 --> 01:19:24,160

was brought against-- there
was a wall right behind me.

2008

01:19:24,160 --> 01:19:26,250

And all of a sudden,
I heard something

2009

01:19:26,250 --> 01:19:32,610

hit the wall up above,
and a fragment of a shell.

2010

01:19:32,610 --> 01:19:33,420

I said, wow.

2011

01:19:33,420 --> 01:19:35,940

I said, they're going to get me.

2012

01:19:35,940 --> 01:19:37,500
They're going to get me.

2013
01:19:37,500 --> 01:19:40,560
I wasn't sure I
was out from under.

2014
01:19:40,560 --> 01:19:41,470
Yeah.

2015
01:19:41,470 --> 01:19:42,390
But I went back.

2016
01:19:42,390 --> 01:19:44,010
We visited that place.

2017
01:19:44,010 --> 01:19:46,500
I took Edith, my daughter.

2018
01:19:46,500 --> 01:19:49,920
And I showed them
exactly where that--

2019
01:19:49,920 --> 01:19:50,430
I remember.

2020
01:19:50,430 --> 01:19:52,950

2021
01:19:52,950 --> 01:19:53,670
OK.

2022
01:19:53,670 --> 01:19:56,040
So Rennes is under attack.

2023
01:19:56,040 --> 01:19:57,810
What happens with you?

2024
01:19:57,810 --> 01:19:58,920
Well, we just--

2025

01:19:58,920 --> 01:20:00,128
Because they leave you there.

2026
01:20:00,128 --> 01:20:02,610
And then suddenly the
Germans retreated.

2027
01:20:02,610 --> 01:20:03,660
And they left you there.

2028
01:20:03,660 --> 01:20:04,620
They left us there.

2029
01:20:04,620 --> 01:20:05,430
OK.

2030
01:20:05,430 --> 01:20:10,980
And all of a sudden, the
American Red Cross came in.

2031
01:20:10,980 --> 01:20:12,150
And I looked at that--

2032
01:20:12,150 --> 01:20:16,170
the guy came in with a
blanket, US Army blanket,

2033
01:20:16,170 --> 01:20:17,610
put it over me, and I said--

2034
01:20:17,610 --> 01:20:18,630
I said, wow.

2035
01:20:18,630 --> 01:20:21,150
I felt like I was home.

2036
01:20:21,150 --> 01:20:21,960
It was amazing.

2037
01:20:21,960 --> 01:20:24,300
Just suddenly, this
blanket became my--

2038
01:20:24,300 --> 01:20:27,060

2039
01:20:27,060 --> 01:20:31,140
and we were saved
and shipped back.

2040
01:20:31,140 --> 01:20:32,800
So that was my big--

2041
01:20:32,800 --> 01:20:33,960
but I--

2042
01:20:33,960 --> 01:20:35,550
You were shipped back to where?

2043
01:20:35,550 --> 01:20:37,620
England.

2044
01:20:37,620 --> 01:20:48,700
And then England decided that
the leg had to be re-amputated.

2045
01:20:48,700 --> 01:20:51,460
So they shipped me to Walter--

2046
01:20:51,460 --> 01:20:55,720
then I was shipped to
Walter Reed in Washington

2047
01:20:55,720 --> 01:20:57,970
for another operation.

2048
01:20:57,970 --> 01:21:06,680
So believe it or not,
this is an official length

2049
01:21:06,680 --> 01:21:08,540
that you're supposed to have.

2050

01:21:08,540 --> 01:21:13,640
Seven inches below the
knee is ideal that I had.

2051
01:21:13,640 --> 01:21:16,190
That's what I have
today, seven inches.

2052
01:21:16,190 --> 01:21:19,340
So your leg was
amputated at one point?

2053
01:21:19,340 --> 01:21:20,270
Above the ankle.

2054
01:21:20,270 --> 01:21:21,440
Above the ankle.

2055
01:21:21,440 --> 01:21:24,240
That's in the field in
France, by the German doctor.

2056
01:21:24,240 --> 01:21:24,740
Yes, right.

2057
01:21:24,740 --> 01:21:28,940
And then Walter Reed
re-amputated to seven inches

2058
01:21:28,940 --> 01:21:29,690
below the knee.

2059
01:21:29,690 --> 01:21:30,530
And why?

2060
01:21:30,530 --> 01:21:32,630
What is the reason for that?

2061
01:21:32,630 --> 01:21:34,295
Articulate.

2062
01:21:34,295 --> 01:21:35,420

To be able to mend the leg?

2063

01:21:35,420 --> 01:21:37,700

That's for circulation.

2064

01:21:37,700 --> 01:21:41,948

All sorts of reasons that they
feel that is the ideal length.

2065

01:21:41,948 --> 01:21:43,700

Excuse me.

2066

01:21:43,700 --> 01:21:44,760

Yes.

2067

01:21:44,760 --> 01:21:45,260

Excuse me.

2068

01:21:45,260 --> 01:21:47,240

Can we cut?

2069

01:21:47,240 --> 01:21:49,660

Your wife just wanted
to add something so--

2070

01:21:49,660 --> 01:21:50,660

remind you of something.

2071

01:21:50,660 --> 01:21:52,330

Tell me what it was.

2072

01:21:52,330 --> 01:21:55,910

When I was taken
in England, they

2073

01:21:55,910 --> 01:22:02,030

took the, called the guillotine
cut, and closed it up.

2074

01:22:02,030 --> 01:22:02,990

OK.

2075

01:22:02,990 --> 01:22:08,210

And after that
procedure, I became ill

2076

01:22:08,210 --> 01:22:09,890

for some reason or something.

2077

01:22:09,890 --> 01:22:12,800

And it delayed my trip.

2078

01:22:12,800 --> 01:22:15,860

And then I was finally
shipped to Walter Reed,

2079

01:22:15,860 --> 01:22:19,130

and they took the
[INAUDIBLE] to the leg.

2080

01:22:19,130 --> 01:22:20,990

Seven inches below the knee.

2081

01:22:20,990 --> 01:22:22,730

Yeah, they re-amputated.

2082

01:22:22,730 --> 01:22:27,200

But I don't know why
England felt that they

2083

01:22:27,200 --> 01:22:28,610

had to close the wound.

2084

01:22:28,610 --> 01:22:32,450

Maybe there was the
reason for that, I guess.

2085

01:22:32,450 --> 01:22:35,030

What was it like for
you as a young man

2086

01:22:35,030 --> 01:22:38,180

to realize you
didn't have a leg--

2087
01:22:38,180 --> 01:22:40,040
you didn't have
half of your leg?

2088
01:22:40,040 --> 01:22:43,700
It was very difficult.
It made my--

2089
01:22:43,700 --> 01:22:45,890
well, it was very
difficult dating

2090
01:22:45,890 --> 01:22:48,530
for instance, relationships.

2091
01:22:48,530 --> 01:22:56,925
I felt very conscious
of being immobile.

2092
01:22:56,925 --> 01:22:57,990
It was a--

2093
01:22:57,990 --> 01:22:58,790
[PHONE RINGING]

2094
01:22:58,790 --> 01:23:00,200
Oh.

2095
01:23:00,200 --> 01:23:01,150
OK.

2096
01:23:01,150 --> 01:23:01,650
Yeah.

2097
01:23:01,650 --> 01:23:05,810
You were saying that you
were immobile, and dating

2098
01:23:05,810 --> 01:23:08,020
and things.

2099

01:23:08,020 --> 01:23:11,030

I was very
self-conscious obviously.

2100

01:23:11,030 --> 01:23:12,830

I walked OK.

2101

01:23:12,830 --> 01:23:18,590

But I didn't feel
100% obviously.

2102

01:23:18,590 --> 01:23:25,730

Made dating very
difficult. And so but--

2103

01:23:25,730 --> 01:23:26,705

You know, but you--

2104

01:23:26,705 --> 01:23:30,530

2105

01:23:30,530 --> 01:23:32,840

I mean, first of all,
I can't imagine what

2106

01:23:32,840 --> 01:23:34,700

it was like to be captured.

2107

01:23:34,700 --> 01:23:40,100

I can't imagine what it was
like to really think this is it.

2108

01:23:40,100 --> 01:23:43,430

I'm not going to wake
up and yet you do.

2109

01:23:43,430 --> 01:23:48,980

And yet when you do, you wake
up and not all of you is there.

2110

01:23:48,980 --> 01:23:56,990

And then a month in this

captivity, did it dawn on you

2111
01:23:56,990 --> 01:24:00,470
right at the beginning
what really has happened

2112
01:24:00,470 --> 01:24:02,930
or was that gradual?

2113
01:24:02,930 --> 01:24:08,510
Well, it's obviously a shocker,
but you learn very quickly

2114
01:24:08,510 --> 01:24:10,820
to accept.

2115
01:24:10,820 --> 01:24:19,490
And the original feeling
is, I guess, I'm here.

2116
01:24:19,490 --> 01:24:21,860
I'm out from under.

2117
01:24:21,860 --> 01:24:25,460
Whatever happens
can only be a plus.

2118
01:24:25,460 --> 01:24:28,550
You get-- that's where the
positive thinking becomes--

2119
01:24:28,550 --> 01:24:32,230
you have to become an optimist.

2120
01:24:32,230 --> 01:24:35,828
Very positive thinking
is the name of the game.

2121
01:24:35,828 --> 01:24:36,620
But you know what--

2122
01:24:36,620 --> 01:24:39,230

I always believed, I really did.

2123

01:24:39,230 --> 01:24:45,380

I always believed that I would
get up and walk and just carry

2124

01:24:45,380 --> 01:24:49,850

on with the ups and
downs, of course.

2125

01:24:49,850 --> 01:24:51,920

But as I say, perspective.

2126

01:24:51,920 --> 01:24:54,320

I say that very seriously
that it gives you

2127

01:24:54,320 --> 01:24:59,300

a tremendous amount
of confidence

2128

01:24:59,300 --> 01:25:01,773

that if I can
handle this, I can--

2129

01:25:01,773 --> 01:25:02,690

I can handle anything.

2130

01:25:02,690 --> 01:25:03,350

That's it.

2131

01:25:03,350 --> 01:25:05,000

That's right.

2132

01:25:05,000 --> 01:25:08,180

Nevertheless, though,
you had losses.

2133

01:25:08,180 --> 01:25:15,260

You had also-- you had promises
that were then not kept.

2134

01:25:15,260 --> 01:25:17,570
You know, promises
for the school.

2135
01:25:17,570 --> 01:25:18,620
That was a blow.

2136
01:25:18,620 --> 01:25:19,250
Yeah.

2137
01:25:19,250 --> 01:25:22,400
And I can imagine anger.

2138
01:25:22,400 --> 01:25:24,080
Anger at fate.

2139
01:25:24,080 --> 01:25:27,180
I don't want to put words
into your mouth, but you know,

2140
01:25:27,180 --> 01:25:27,680
in what--

2141
01:25:27,680 --> 01:25:28,430
Questions.

2142
01:25:28,430 --> 01:25:28,970
Yeah.

2143
01:25:28,970 --> 01:25:29,700
Questions.

2144
01:25:29,700 --> 01:25:30,200
Questions.

2145
01:25:30,200 --> 01:25:33,860
And also, how do you deal
with the negative things

2146
01:25:33,860 --> 01:25:37,760
because if you squash
those negative feelings,

2147
01:25:37,760 --> 01:25:41,150
they come out one
way or another.

2148
01:25:41,150 --> 01:25:42,770
And I'm wondering,
did you have them?

2149
01:25:42,770 --> 01:25:44,420
Did you have anger?

2150
01:25:44,420 --> 01:25:48,050
Did you have a sense of,
I wasn't treated fairly?

2151
01:25:48,050 --> 01:25:49,850
This shouldn't have happened.

2152
01:25:49,850 --> 01:25:52,530
I got the short
end of the stick.

2153
01:25:52,530 --> 01:25:53,780
I think there was a lot of it.

2154
01:25:53,780 --> 01:25:56,480
It was, yeah.

2155
01:25:56,480 --> 01:26:02,150
And getting over
that takes time.

2156
01:26:02,150 --> 01:26:07,940
And a lot of positive things
have to happen to make it OK.

2157
01:26:07,940 --> 01:26:10,250
So tell me, what are some
of those positive things

2158
01:26:10,250 --> 01:26:10,880

that happened?

2159

01:26:10,880 --> 01:26:13,760

Well, OK.

2160

01:26:13,760 --> 01:26:18,920

Getting a leg suddenly, being able to walk and do the things,

2161

01:26:18,920 --> 01:26:21,380

that kind of thing.

2162

01:26:21,380 --> 01:26:23,600

That was a big thing.

2163

01:26:23,600 --> 01:26:25,220

OK.

2164

01:26:25,220 --> 01:26:29,480

And it's hard to believe--

2165

01:26:29,480 --> 01:26:31,010

I must tell you this--

2166

01:26:31,010 --> 01:26:34,670

that the first leg

I got at Walter Reed

2167

01:26:34,670 --> 01:26:36,650

was a product of the Civil War.

2168

01:26:36,650 --> 01:26:38,030

No, really?

2169

01:26:38,030 --> 01:26:39,140

You know what it was?

2170

01:26:39,140 --> 01:26:39,740

What was it?

2171

01:26:39,740 --> 01:26:43,940

It was a solid piece of wood.

2172

01:26:43,940 --> 01:26:49,940

Wood that's hollowed out.

2173

01:26:49,940 --> 01:26:52,530

Well, it's called willow wood.

2174

01:26:52,530 --> 01:26:53,750

OK.

2175

01:26:53,750 --> 01:26:57,306

And that's what they
did, I was told.

2176

01:26:57,306 --> 01:26:58,190

From the Civil War.

2177

01:26:58,190 --> 01:27:00,440

How Civil War amputees would--

2178

01:27:00,440 --> 01:27:01,290

oh, my goodness.

2179

01:27:01,290 --> 01:27:05,600

And it was-- you could imagine--

2180

01:27:05,600 --> 01:27:07,460

It must have been heavy.

2181

01:27:07,460 --> 01:27:10,550

Well, willow wood is light.

2182

01:27:10,550 --> 01:27:13,570

But suddenly things
like Velcro came in,

2183

01:27:13,570 --> 01:27:16,280

which remember Velcro came in?

2184

01:27:16,280 --> 01:27:19,910

And then they started to do
research and development.

2185
01:27:19,910 --> 01:27:21,470
And everything worked out.

2186
01:27:21,470 --> 01:27:23,270
Today, it's just a whole--

2187
01:27:23,270 --> 01:27:24,410
amazing.

2188
01:27:24,410 --> 01:27:29,450
But you learn gradually
to accept little

2189
01:27:29,450 --> 01:27:33,590
by little the pluses.

2190
01:27:33,590 --> 01:27:36,080
But the early days
were tough, yeah.

2191
01:27:36,080 --> 01:27:38,480
Did you go home to your parents?

2192
01:27:38,480 --> 01:27:39,330
Oh I--

2193
01:27:39,330 --> 01:27:40,680
I mean, after Walter Reed?

2194
01:27:40,680 --> 01:27:41,180
Yeah.

2195
01:27:41,180 --> 01:27:42,070
I traveled, Yeah.

2196
01:27:42,070 --> 01:27:43,130
OK.

2197

01:27:43,130 --> 01:27:45,260
Go home on crutches.

2198
01:27:45,260 --> 01:27:45,760
Yeah.

2199
01:27:45,760 --> 01:27:49,010

2200
01:27:49,010 --> 01:27:52,650
And I was at Walter
Reed for nine months

2201
01:27:52,650 --> 01:27:56,360
because I developed all
sorts of skin problems

2202
01:27:56,360 --> 01:27:57,640
and one thing or another.

2203
01:27:57,640 --> 01:28:01,140
And so it was a struggle.

2204
01:28:01,140 --> 01:28:03,600
But here again, as I
say, it all adds up

2205
01:28:03,600 --> 01:28:09,300
to being thankful
that it all comes out.

2206
01:28:09,300 --> 01:28:14,430
Did you go into detail with your
parents about what happened?

2207
01:28:14,430 --> 01:28:16,230
I don't think so, no.

2208
01:28:16,230 --> 01:28:19,440
Nobody really--

2209
01:28:19,440 --> 01:28:19,940

OK.

2210
01:28:19,940 --> 01:28:21,840
Can we cut?

2211
01:28:21,840 --> 01:28:23,340
All right.

2212
01:28:23,340 --> 01:28:27,180
Your wife also reminded us
that when you were in England,

2213
01:28:27,180 --> 01:28:29,580
is that when you
let your parents

2214
01:28:29,580 --> 01:28:33,080
know that you had been wounded
and captured and released?

2215
01:28:33,080 --> 01:28:38,450
Well, they-- I guess I--

2216
01:28:38,450 --> 01:28:39,090
yeah.

2217
01:28:39,090 --> 01:28:40,780
I wrote from England, yeah.

2218
01:28:40,780 --> 01:28:41,850
OK.

2219
01:28:41,850 --> 01:28:45,150
Had they already known
that you had been captured?

2220
01:28:45,150 --> 01:28:46,040
They had a telegram.

2221
01:28:46,040 --> 01:28:50,130
They had a telegram
that I-- and there were

2222

01:28:50,130 --> 01:28:52,650

no details on the telegram.

2223

01:28:52,650 --> 01:28:54,340

Was missing that, just missing.

2224

01:28:54,340 --> 01:28:55,140

OK.

2225

01:28:55,140 --> 01:28:56,130

OK.

2226

01:28:56,130 --> 01:28:58,780

And then, so what did

you write to them?

2227

01:28:58,780 --> 01:29:01,170

Did you tell them the

extent of what had happened?

2228

01:29:01,170 --> 01:29:02,063

That was my problem.

2229

01:29:02,063 --> 01:29:02,730

I couldn't tell.

2230

01:29:02,730 --> 01:29:03,660

I didn't.

2231

01:29:03,660 --> 01:29:04,160

You didn't.

2232

01:29:04,160 --> 01:29:05,535

And that's why

they were guessing

2233

01:29:05,535 --> 01:29:07,830

about what it was all about.

2234

01:29:07,830 --> 01:29:09,780

What were they guessing?

2235
01:29:09,780 --> 01:29:10,423
Well--

2236
01:29:10,423 --> 01:29:12,090
I mean, did you know
they were guessing?

2237
01:29:12,090 --> 01:29:12,590
No, no.

2238
01:29:12,590 --> 01:29:13,090
OK.

2239
01:29:13,090 --> 01:29:14,238
So what did you write them?

2240
01:29:14,238 --> 01:29:15,780
I just wrote them
that I was wounded.

2241
01:29:15,780 --> 01:29:19,320

2242
01:29:19,320 --> 01:29:22,720
But I didn't tell about the leg.

2243
01:29:22,720 --> 01:29:23,220
OK.

2244
01:29:23,220 --> 01:29:23,790
I don't know.

2245
01:29:23,790 --> 01:29:26,520
Just to this day,
I don't know why.

2246
01:29:26,520 --> 01:29:28,020
OK.

2247

01:29:28,020 --> 01:29:29,650

Did they visit you
in Walter Reed?

2248

01:29:29,650 --> 01:29:30,150

Oh, yes.

2249

01:29:30,150 --> 01:29:30,450

Yes.

2250

01:29:30,450 --> 01:29:30,850

Yes.

2251

01:29:30,850 --> 01:29:31,350

OK.

2252

01:29:31,350 --> 01:29:34,840

Do you remember seeing
them for the first time?

2253

01:29:34,840 --> 01:29:35,340

Yeah.

2254

01:29:35,340 --> 01:29:35,690

Yeah.

2255

01:29:35,690 --> 01:29:37,200

Well, by that time,
of course, they

2256

01:29:37,200 --> 01:29:39,000

were aware of what happened.

2257

01:29:39,000 --> 01:29:41,640

They knew it at that point.

2258

01:29:41,640 --> 01:29:44,130

How did they know?

2259

01:29:44,130 --> 01:29:49,350

I guess-- I don't
remember the details.

2260
01:29:49,350 --> 01:29:52,616
But they were-- before
I got to the States.

2261
01:29:52,616 --> 01:29:55,950

2262
01:29:55,950 --> 01:29:56,950
You know, I just don't--

2263
01:29:56,950 --> 01:29:58,110
I just don't remember this.

2264
01:29:58,110 --> 01:29:58,610
OK.

2265
01:29:58,610 --> 01:29:59,470
OK.

2266
01:29:59,470 --> 01:30:01,480
That's a good question, though.

2267
01:30:01,480 --> 01:30:05,140
That's an area where
absolutely I'm blank.

2268
01:30:05,140 --> 01:30:06,520
I'm not surprised.

2269
01:30:06,520 --> 01:30:07,300
I'm not surprised.

2270
01:30:07,300 --> 01:30:08,270
This is so traumatic.

2271
01:30:08,270 --> 01:30:08,770
Yeah.

2272
01:30:08,770 --> 01:30:09,280
Yeah.

2273

01:30:09,280 --> 01:30:11,990

That there are just things
that-- these things that I'm

2274

01:30:11,990 --> 01:30:12,990

asking are real details.

2275

01:30:12,990 --> 01:30:14,740

When did they learn
that there was-- yeah,

2276

01:30:14,740 --> 01:30:16,120

the leg had come off, yeah.

2277

01:30:16,120 --> 01:30:18,790

But you know, for a
mother, for a father

2278

01:30:18,790 --> 01:30:26,733

to learn that their child
is mutilated like that is--

2279

01:30:26,733 --> 01:30:29,150

I mean, first of all, they're
grateful and, second of all,

2280

01:30:29,150 --> 01:30:30,280

what's happened to my son?

2281

01:30:30,280 --> 01:30:31,460

Mm-hmm.

2282

01:30:31,460 --> 01:30:31,960

Yeah.

2283

01:30:31,960 --> 01:30:33,640

It was-- yeah.

2284

01:30:33,640 --> 01:30:38,020

Do you remember when you saw
them again, what that was like?

2285
01:30:38,020 --> 01:30:42,130
Yes, I remember that first
sight at Walter Reed, yeah.

2286
01:30:42,130 --> 01:30:44,020
I just sort of--

2287
01:30:44,020 --> 01:30:45,340
I came down.

2288
01:30:45,340 --> 01:30:46,660
I met them.

2289
01:30:46,660 --> 01:30:48,130
I met them in the lobby.

2290
01:30:48,130 --> 01:30:52,270
I was on crutches obviously.

2291
01:30:52,270 --> 01:30:53,860
And it just, that was--

2292
01:30:53,860 --> 01:30:55,450
And what did they say?

2293
01:30:55,450 --> 01:30:58,750
Well, they just--
everybody melted I guess.

2294
01:30:58,750 --> 01:30:59,440
It was--

2295
01:30:59,440 --> 01:31:00,340
They were all crying.

2296
01:31:00,340 --> 01:31:00,840
Yeah.

2297
01:31:00,840 --> 01:31:03,790
It was a major, major moment.

2298
01:31:03,790 --> 01:31:05,260
But we went from there.

2299
01:31:05,260 --> 01:31:09,010

2300
01:31:09,010 --> 01:31:11,590
And then you went back
to the house in The Bronx

2301
01:31:11,590 --> 01:31:15,350
with them after you were
released from Walter Reed.

2302
01:31:15,350 --> 01:31:15,850
Right.

2303
01:31:15,850 --> 01:31:17,350
Did your mother
stay at Walter Reed?

2304
01:31:17,350 --> 01:31:18,433
Did they have facilities--

2305
01:31:18,433 --> 01:31:19,060
No.

2306
01:31:19,060 --> 01:31:21,760
--for families to stay sometime?

2307
01:31:21,760 --> 01:31:22,910
Yeah, there was a-- yeah.

2308
01:31:22,910 --> 01:31:27,940

2309
01:31:27,940 --> 01:31:29,980
But I came home.

2310
01:31:29,980 --> 01:31:31,720

Did Miriam visit you
during that time?

2311
01:31:31,720 --> 01:31:34,870
Yeah, she came
down with friends.

2312
01:31:34,870 --> 01:31:36,220
OK.

2313
01:31:36,220 --> 01:31:39,250
And what were the first
weeks at home like?

2314
01:31:39,250 --> 01:31:41,395
Well, getting-- Yeah, it was--

2315
01:31:41,395 --> 01:31:44,450

2316
01:31:44,450 --> 01:31:46,430
is was a question
of I was getting

2317
01:31:46,430 --> 01:31:48,020
ready to go to
college at that point.

2318
01:31:48,020 --> 01:31:53,240
I thought I was going
to go away to school.

2319
01:31:53,240 --> 01:31:57,470
Tell me, let's see if we can
put the sequence of chronology

2320
01:31:57,470 --> 01:31:58,490
in order.

2321
01:31:58,490 --> 01:32:03,110
You land June 9, was it,
or a week after D-Day.

2322

01:32:03,110 --> 01:32:05,150

You land a week after D-Day.

2323

01:32:05,150 --> 01:32:09,540

In July 9 and 10, it is
when you're in this battle--

2324

01:32:09,540 --> 01:32:10,430

July 10.

2325

01:32:10,430 --> 01:32:10,970

OK.

2326

01:32:10,970 --> 01:32:13,520

And you're captured.

2327

01:32:13,520 --> 01:32:17,480

July 11 is when the
operation happens.

2328

01:32:17,480 --> 01:32:20,390

Then for about a month,
you're in Rennes.

2329

01:32:20,390 --> 01:32:22,250

So that takes us into August.

2330

01:32:22,250 --> 01:32:22,850

Yes.

2331

01:32:22,850 --> 01:32:26,750

So from August, you're
back into Allied hands.

2332

01:32:26,750 --> 01:32:29,650

How long were you in Britain?

2333

01:32:29,650 --> 01:32:32,790

I imagine it was about
a month, I guess.

2334

01:32:32,790 --> 01:32:33,290
OK.

2335
01:32:33,290 --> 01:32:35,430
So that's September.

2336
01:32:35,430 --> 01:32:38,930
So it's one year after having
gone into basic training,

2337
01:32:38,930 --> 01:32:41,630
September '44.

2338
01:32:41,630 --> 01:32:46,100
And then you're sent back
to the United States.

2339
01:32:46,100 --> 01:32:48,110
Do you remember
which month it was

2340
01:32:48,110 --> 01:32:51,380
that you came to Walter Reed?

2341
01:32:51,380 --> 01:32:54,990
In the fall, October something.

2342
01:32:54,990 --> 01:32:57,770
And that's when you
see your parents.

2343
01:32:57,770 --> 01:32:58,550
All right.

2344
01:32:58,550 --> 01:33:01,580
And then you're in Walter
Reed for nine months.

2345
01:33:01,580 --> 01:33:05,630
So during that nine
months, the war ends.

2346

01:33:05,630 --> 01:33:06,200
That's right.

2347
01:33:06,200 --> 01:33:08,060
All right.

2348
01:33:08,060 --> 01:33:08,840
Before we go--

2349
01:33:08,840 --> 01:33:10,280
I remember--

2350
01:33:10,280 --> 01:33:11,130
OK.

2351
01:33:11,130 --> 01:33:11,820
Yeah.

2352
01:33:11,820 --> 01:33:12,320
Tell me.

2353
01:33:12,320 --> 01:33:13,195
What do you remember?

2354
01:33:13,195 --> 01:33:19,910
No, I said I remember lying
in bed with earphones on my--

2355
01:33:19,910 --> 01:33:26,900
and hearing that
the bomb went off.

2356
01:33:26,900 --> 01:33:28,250
You mean the one in Hiroshima?

2357
01:33:28,250 --> 01:33:29,300
Yes, Hiroshima.

2358
01:33:29,300 --> 01:33:32,720
So that's August 1945.

2359

01:33:32,720 --> 01:33:33,980
That's right.

2360
01:33:33,980 --> 01:33:35,850
OK.

2361
01:33:35,850 --> 01:33:41,810
And I was-- actually, a month
or so after that, I was--

2362
01:33:41,810 --> 01:33:46,020
Did you get disability
from the army?

2363
01:33:46,020 --> 01:33:46,520
Yeah.

2364
01:33:46,520 --> 01:33:48,320
And you were on the GI Bill?

2365
01:33:48,320 --> 01:33:49,640
The GI Bill, yeah.

2366
01:33:49,640 --> 01:33:51,530
OK.

2367
01:33:51,530 --> 01:33:57,690
And you're back then
at home, and you have

2368
01:33:57,690 --> 01:33:59,340
within your sights education.

2369
01:33:59,340 --> 01:34:02,070

2370
01:34:02,070 --> 01:34:04,570
I'm writing to schools.

2371
01:34:04,570 --> 01:34:05,070
OK.

2372

01:34:05,070 --> 01:34:07,710
What schools and what subjects?

2373

01:34:07,710 --> 01:34:12,210
Well, I was into economics.

2374

01:34:12,210 --> 01:34:14,820
And I ended up at a
school called Bethany.

2375

01:34:14,820 --> 01:34:18,490
Bethany College in
Bethany, West Virginia.

2376

01:34:18,490 --> 01:34:21,090
That's pretty far from New York.

2377

01:34:21,090 --> 01:34:28,830
I had somebody that my father
knew was a teacher in New York.

2378

01:34:28,830 --> 01:34:31,740
And he gave her the name.

2379

01:34:31,740 --> 01:34:35,040

2380

01:34:35,040 --> 01:34:37,770
When did you take that
little card out and asked

2381

01:34:37,770 --> 01:34:40,350
for having it translated?

2382

01:34:40,350 --> 01:34:43,140
When did your attention turn
to that card the German--

2383

01:34:43,140 --> 01:34:46,050
When I came home,
and there was--

2384

01:34:46,050 --> 01:34:49,545
there was somebody who worked
for my father who was German.

2385

01:34:49,545 --> 01:34:50,760
OK.

2386

01:34:50,760 --> 01:34:54,450
And he translated for me.

2387

01:34:54,450 --> 01:34:55,290
It was a long time.

2388

01:34:55,290 --> 01:34:58,960

2389

01:34:58,960 --> 01:35:00,960
And when did you start
thinking about this guy?

2390

01:35:00,960 --> 01:35:04,490

2391

01:35:04,490 --> 01:35:05,610
[INAUDIBLE]

2392

01:35:05,610 --> 01:35:09,780
When did you start thinking
about this German surgeon.

2393

01:35:09,780 --> 01:35:14,670
Edith and I traveled
to France, what year?

2394

01:35:14,670 --> 01:35:15,490
'80?

2395

01:35:15,490 --> 01:35:16,690
Italy.

2396

01:35:16,690 --> 01:35:17,680

Italy.

2397

01:35:17,680 --> 01:35:19,660

Italy.

2398

01:35:19,660 --> 01:35:22,420

And went on a Perillo Tour.

2399

01:35:22,420 --> 01:35:23,740

You know the name Perillo Tour?

2400

01:35:23,740 --> 01:35:24,580

Perillo Tour.

2401

01:35:24,580 --> 01:35:25,720

Yeah, I've heard of those.

2402

01:35:25,720 --> 01:35:26,380

Yeah.

2403

01:35:26,380 --> 01:35:31,210

And on the bus, there
was a whole bunch

2404

01:35:31,210 --> 01:35:35,860

of guys going back to the places
where they were during the war.

2405

01:35:35,860 --> 01:35:38,950

And it got be kind of--

2406

01:35:38,950 --> 01:35:44,930

and Edith's brother
lives in Paris.

2407

01:35:44,930 --> 01:35:48,400

He was an artist
living in Paris.

2408

01:35:48,400 --> 01:35:50,230

So we decided to visit him.

2409

01:35:50,230 --> 01:35:53,410

2410

01:35:53,410 --> 01:35:57,970

And while we went to Paris, we
would travel down to Normandy

2411

01:35:57,970 --> 01:36:00,070

to visit the beach.

2412

01:36:00,070 --> 01:36:00,760

Yeah.

2413

01:36:00,760 --> 01:36:04,720

I'll show you where
I landed, ba ba ba.

2414

01:36:04,720 --> 01:36:09,070

And I told the lady who was
running a little museum down

2415

01:36:09,070 --> 01:36:13,060

there, I told her--

2416

01:36:13,060 --> 01:36:17,320

oh, and I had at that point, I
had a thing about the French.

2417

01:36:17,320 --> 01:36:19,630

I wasn't very happy.

2418

01:36:19,630 --> 01:36:22,360

And I didn't think they were--

2419

01:36:22,360 --> 01:36:23,080

I don't know.

2420

01:36:23,080 --> 01:36:27,140

It wasn't fair because it
was just a couple of weeks.

2421

01:36:27,140 --> 01:36:32,440
And the people I met were all
involved in saving themselves.

2422
01:36:32,440 --> 01:36:35,280
So they weren't too
involved in thanking us

2423
01:36:35,280 --> 01:36:36,420
and everything else.

2424
01:36:36,420 --> 01:36:39,670
Oh, so you're saying
when you first landed,

2425
01:36:39,670 --> 01:36:42,530
you didn't see any French kind
of gratitude that you're there.

2426
01:36:42,530 --> 01:36:43,130
Correct.

2427
01:36:43,130 --> 01:36:43,630
OK.

2428
01:36:43,630 --> 01:36:44,380
OK.

2429
01:36:44,380 --> 01:36:48,400
So on this trip, we
went to this museum,

2430
01:36:48,400 --> 01:36:52,240
and this woman announced
to the group room--

2431
01:36:52,240 --> 01:36:54,850
they were all local people--

2432
01:36:54,850 --> 01:36:59,590
that this man landed
with the 90th,

2433

01:36:59,590 --> 01:37:01,650
and they all got up in clapped.

2434

01:37:01,650 --> 01:37:03,920
Suddenly, I started to
feel a little better.

2435

01:37:03,920 --> 01:37:06,520
And then she told me
that nearby, there

2436

01:37:06,520 --> 01:37:10,150
was a man who was very
interested in my Division.

2437

01:37:10,150 --> 01:37:14,980
And he had a little
museum in his house.

2438

01:37:14,980 --> 01:37:18,850
But his town was
liberated by the 90th.

2439

01:37:18,850 --> 01:37:20,005
Oh, the 90th even.

2440

01:37:20,005 --> 01:37:21,640
The 90th.

2441

01:37:21,640 --> 01:37:25,280
So Edith is a French student.

2442

01:37:25,280 --> 01:37:30,220
And so I was loathe to do
it, but she wanted to go.

2443

01:37:30,220 --> 01:37:32,510
And we went to visit them.

2444

01:37:32,510 --> 01:37:34,300
And when I told
him the story, he

2445
01:37:34,300 --> 01:37:36,430
said would you like
to find the doctor?

2446
01:37:36,430 --> 01:37:38,530
And is that the first
time it occurred to you?

2447
01:37:38,530 --> 01:37:39,910
yes

2448
01:37:39,910 --> 01:37:42,560
I had no idea I could--

2449
01:37:42,560 --> 01:37:45,430
how to do it, how to reach him.

2450
01:37:45,430 --> 01:37:48,760
But your feelings about him,
had they already been there

2451
01:37:48,760 --> 01:37:51,400
or you hadn't really thought
of him about until that moment?

2452
01:37:51,400 --> 01:37:51,900
No, no.

2453
01:37:51,900 --> 01:37:52,960
I hadn't thought-- that's right.

2454
01:37:52,960 --> 01:37:53,980
I hadn't thought of him.

2455
01:37:53,980 --> 01:37:59,770
I just was grateful, but
that's about as far as it went.

2456
01:37:59,770 --> 01:38:01,480
OK.

2457

01:38:01,480 --> 01:38:03,910

We didn't know this,
but shortly before we

2458

01:38:03,910 --> 01:38:07,570

arrived in this little
town, the German soldier who

2459

01:38:07,570 --> 01:38:10,780

had been captured by our--

2460

01:38:10,780 --> 01:38:13,150

had visited him.

2461

01:38:13,150 --> 01:38:16,000

Henri, his name is.

2462

01:38:16,000 --> 01:38:17,620

And Henri had his
name and number.

2463

01:38:17,620 --> 01:38:20,650

He said, I'll speak
to Heinz about this.

2464

01:38:20,650 --> 01:38:22,600

OK.

2465

01:38:22,600 --> 01:38:27,370

And Heinz went to Berlin
with information on the card.

2466

01:38:27,370 --> 01:38:30,160

I think I sent a
copy of the card.

2467

01:38:30,160 --> 01:38:32,140

And he had the numbers
and everything else.

2468

01:38:32,140 --> 01:38:34,990

And he found out who it was.

2469
01:38:34,990 --> 01:38:36,460
We just had the name.

2470
01:38:36,460 --> 01:38:37,810
Didn't know where he was from.

2471
01:38:37,810 --> 01:38:39,190
Didn't know anything.

2472
01:38:39,190 --> 01:38:41,390
But he was from a town
called Saarbrucken.

2473
01:38:41,390 --> 01:38:41,890
Saarbrucken.

2474
01:38:41,890 --> 01:38:42,550
OK.

2475
01:38:42,550 --> 01:38:43,390
It's a pretty town.

2476
01:38:43,390 --> 01:38:43,990
Oh, yes.

2477
01:38:43,990 --> 01:38:45,250
Yes.

2478
01:38:45,250 --> 01:38:49,310
And then it started the
whole thing rolling.

2479
01:38:49,310 --> 01:38:51,830
And because he
contacted the family.

2480
01:38:51,830 --> 01:38:53,650
What was the name of the doctor?

2481
01:38:53,650 --> 01:38:55,570

W-O-L-L.

2482
01:38:55,570 --> 01:38:56,440
W-O--

2483
01:38:56,440 --> 01:38:57,310
Fredo.

2484
01:38:57,310 --> 01:38:59,540
Not Fredo.

2485
01:38:59,540 --> 01:39:00,040
Edgar.

2486
01:39:00,040 --> 01:39:00,540
Edgar.

2487
01:39:00,540 --> 01:39:01,630
Edgar Woll.

2488
01:39:01,630 --> 01:39:02,890
Edgar Woll.

2489
01:39:02,890 --> 01:39:04,000
W-O-L-L.

2490
01:39:04,000 --> 01:39:06,180
OK.

2491
01:39:06,180 --> 01:39:09,310
And the family told us that
the doctor had passed away

2492
01:39:09,310 --> 01:39:10,870
several years before.

2493
01:39:10,870 --> 01:39:11,500
OK.

2494
01:39:11,500 --> 01:39:15,880
But they would be delighted--

wonderful that we could visit.

2495

01:39:15,880 --> 01:39:19,060

So the next year, we
got together with Henri.

2496

01:39:19,060 --> 01:39:21,460

And we drove to Saarbrucken.

2497

01:39:21,460 --> 01:39:22,000

Oh, wow.

2498

01:39:22,000 --> 01:39:25,530

We came back, and we spent
the weekend in Germany

2499

01:39:25,530 --> 01:39:27,490

in Saarbrucken.

2500

01:39:27,490 --> 01:39:29,350

We came into this family.

2501

01:39:29,350 --> 01:39:30,130

They had a party.

2502

01:39:30,130 --> 01:39:32,440

It was a Saturday night.

2503

01:39:32,440 --> 01:39:34,960

And we were the guests of honor.

2504

01:39:34,960 --> 01:39:38,110

And one guy got up
to raise his glass.

2505

01:39:38,110 --> 01:39:41,560

Without you, Bob, we'd
still be saying Heil Hitler.

2506

01:39:41,560 --> 01:39:43,190

In other words--

2507

01:39:43,190 --> 01:39:45,610

And I said, well, I
came as a liberator.

2508

01:39:45,610 --> 01:39:47,500

Didn't know it.

2509

01:39:47,500 --> 01:39:50,900

And I was turned on by
this whole family thing.

2510

01:39:50,900 --> 01:39:53,720

And I would say these
people, professional,

2511

01:39:53,720 --> 01:39:56,410

they're all doctors.

2512

01:39:56,410 --> 01:40:05,360

And I said, I felt
very close, very warm.

2513

01:40:05,360 --> 01:40:06,877

This is not an enemy, obviously.

2514

01:40:06,877 --> 01:40:07,960

These people, I could be--

2515

01:40:07,960 --> 01:40:12,520

we could be neighbors
and be happy with it.

2516

01:40:12,520 --> 01:40:15,670

They were a wonderful,
lovely family.

2517

01:40:15,670 --> 01:40:17,700

So that's how it started.

2518

01:40:17,700 --> 01:40:19,320

And from that moment--

2519

01:40:19,320 --> 01:40:24,240

he had several granddaughters
who he never met,

2520

01:40:24,240 --> 01:40:26,130

and we met them.

2521

01:40:26,130 --> 01:40:31,200

And one of them decided to
come to Fairleigh Dickinson's

2522

01:40:31,200 --> 01:40:32,420

for an English course.

2523

01:40:32,420 --> 01:40:35,400

That's around the
corner from you.

2524

01:40:35,400 --> 01:40:37,950

And they lived at our house.

2525

01:40:37,950 --> 01:40:38,950

Oh, my goodness.

2526

01:40:38,950 --> 01:40:42,190

So we really became
an extended family.

2527

01:40:42,190 --> 01:40:45,900

It was just wonderful,
just wonderful really.

2528

01:40:45,900 --> 01:40:50,700

It's been my big, big,
big pleasant surprise

2529

01:40:50,700 --> 01:40:53,340

that it ended up being--

2530

01:40:53,340 --> 01:40:56,250

I have-- I just
have to show you.

2531
01:40:56,250 --> 01:40:59,460
You will in a minute,
when we're not miked up.

2532
01:40:59,460 --> 01:41:03,030
And we'll go get some
pictures and maybe film them.

2533
01:41:03,030 --> 01:41:05,640
But this is almost--

2534
01:41:05,640 --> 01:41:07,740
I mean, we have very
few beautiful moments

2535
01:41:07,740 --> 01:41:11,760
in talking about the kinds
of stories and destinies

2536
01:41:11,760 --> 01:41:14,340
that we talk about.

2537
01:41:14,340 --> 01:41:17,940
But this became such of
a family-on-family thing.

2538
01:41:17,940 --> 01:41:21,210
And we just hit it off
so beautifully together.

2539
01:41:21,210 --> 01:41:23,550
What did you learn
about him as a person?

2540
01:41:23,550 --> 01:41:25,290
You never had a chance
to meet him again.

2541
01:41:25,290 --> 01:41:25,790
No.

2542

01:41:25,790 --> 01:41:28,140
But what did they tell
you about who he was?

2543
01:41:28,140 --> 01:41:28,680
The doctor.

2544
01:41:28,680 --> 01:41:29,970
Yes.

2545
01:41:29,970 --> 01:41:35,010
Well, I met his son,
who is a doctor also.

2546
01:41:35,010 --> 01:41:41,912
And I realized that the son
travels somewhere to volunteer.

2547
01:41:41,912 --> 01:41:48,420
He's a very giving--

2548
01:41:48,420 --> 01:41:53,240
I'm trying to think of the
term, when you reach out and--

2549
01:41:53,240 --> 01:41:54,740
Empathetic.

2550
01:41:54,740 --> 01:42:00,140
Well, going out and making
an effort to help, traveling.

2551
01:42:00,140 --> 01:42:01,280
Altruistic.

2552
01:42:01,280 --> 01:42:02,120
OK.

2553
01:42:02,120 --> 01:42:03,860
I mean, that's another word.

2554
01:42:03,860 --> 01:42:09,185

However, so I realized that
was what the doctor was.

2555
01:42:09,185 --> 01:42:12,800
And did they tell you anything
about his personality?

2556
01:42:12,800 --> 01:42:15,140
Did they tell you
anything about who he was

2557
01:42:15,140 --> 01:42:17,240
and what his life had been?

2558
01:42:17,240 --> 01:42:20,202
I don't think so.

2559
01:42:20,202 --> 01:42:30,400
I don't know, but that he
was just a wonderful father

2560
01:42:30,400 --> 01:42:32,330
and grandfather, I guess.

2561
01:42:32,330 --> 01:42:34,060
OK.

2562
01:42:34,060 --> 01:42:35,690
Did they know of this instance?

2563
01:42:35,690 --> 01:42:36,940
Had he ever talked about this?

2564
01:42:36,940 --> 01:42:37,890
No, I don't think so.

2565
01:42:37,890 --> 01:42:38,540
OK.

2566
01:42:38,540 --> 01:42:39,040
No.

2567

01:42:39,040 --> 01:42:47,000

This was-- to him,
this was just a moment.

2568

01:42:47,000 --> 01:42:48,322

But look what he did.

2569

01:42:48,322 --> 01:42:49,030

Look what he did.

2570

01:42:49,030 --> 01:42:54,880

He actually-- in removing the
dog tags, when I look back

2571

01:42:54,880 --> 01:43:02,080

on it, I say to myself, this
was a special, special guy.

2572

01:43:02,080 --> 01:43:05,380

And I find it such the unique--

2573

01:43:05,380 --> 01:43:08,980

I feel as though he has to
be just like a unique story,

2574

01:43:08,980 --> 01:43:10,070

as a war story.

2575

01:43:10,070 --> 01:43:11,860

It is a war story, yeah.

2576

01:43:11,860 --> 01:43:14,110

It is a war story, and
it is a unique one.

2577

01:43:14,110 --> 01:43:16,930

Yeah.

2578

01:43:16,930 --> 01:43:18,890

Did it change you as a person?

2579

01:43:18,890 --> 01:43:19,390

Yes.

2580

01:43:19,390 --> 01:43:20,200

I think so.

2581

01:43:20,200 --> 01:43:20,980

And how?

2582

01:43:20,980 --> 01:43:22,300

In what way?

2583

01:43:22,300 --> 01:43:28,820

Well, I got involved
with a POW group,

2584

01:43:28,820 --> 01:43:32,110

and I started to reach
out to help other guys.

2585

01:43:32,110 --> 01:43:38,470

And it made me feel so good.

2586

01:43:38,470 --> 01:43:40,060

I mean, somebody
would come to me,

2587

01:43:40,060 --> 01:43:49,650

and I'd write a letter to the
VA and get him his disability.

2588

01:43:49,650 --> 01:43:51,360

Oh, you mean for German POWs?

2589

01:43:51,360 --> 01:43:51,860

No, no, no.

2590

01:43:51,860 --> 01:43:52,000

This is--

2591

01:43:52,000 --> 01:43:52,840

For US POWs.

2592
01:43:52,840 --> 01:43:53,590
US POWs.

2593
01:43:53,590 --> 01:43:54,760
OK.

2594
01:43:54,760 --> 01:43:55,660
No, my own group.

2595
01:43:55,660 --> 01:43:56,430
Your own group.

2596
01:43:56,430 --> 01:43:57,850
OK.

2597
01:43:57,850 --> 01:44:01,450
And to this day, next
Sunday at this point,

2598
01:44:01,450 --> 01:44:06,280
we're together with a
dinner down in Lyons VA.

2599
01:44:06,280 --> 01:44:10,610
And we have a yearly
lunch together.

2600
01:44:10,610 --> 01:44:13,240
So we're very involved
in helping each other

2601
01:44:13,240 --> 01:44:14,470
and reaching out.

2602
01:44:14,470 --> 01:44:17,530
And this is something
I started doing.

2603
01:44:17,530 --> 01:44:20,800
I felt so good doing it.

2604

01:44:20,800 --> 01:44:24,160

When you had this
connection with the family,

2605

01:44:24,160 --> 01:44:27,870

did the question of what had
happened to Germany's Jews?

2606

01:44:27,870 --> 01:44:28,630

No, no.

2607

01:44:28,630 --> 01:44:29,290

Never came up.

2608

01:44:29,290 --> 01:44:30,260

No.

2609

01:44:30,260 --> 01:44:30,760

OK.

2610

01:44:30,760 --> 01:44:31,718

No, that's interesting.

2611

01:44:31,718 --> 01:44:34,030

I mean, it never--

2612

01:44:34,030 --> 01:44:38,560

as a matter of fact,
when we were at home--

2613

01:44:38,560 --> 01:44:42,010

and Cornelia was her name--

2614

01:44:42,010 --> 01:44:44,080

was at Fairleigh.

2615

01:44:44,080 --> 01:44:45,460

She had two friends.

2616

01:44:45,460 --> 01:44:46,940

This is the

granddaughter of his--

2617
01:44:46,940 --> 01:44:48,607
This is the granddaughter
of the doctor.

2618
01:44:48,607 --> 01:44:50,050
Of Edgar Woll.

2619
01:44:50,050 --> 01:44:55,360
One girl was a Japanese girl,
and the boy that she met

2620
01:44:55,360 --> 01:44:57,460
was an Italian boy.

2621
01:44:57,460 --> 01:45:02,015
So the three Axis powers.

2622
01:45:02,015 --> 01:45:03,400
Axis powers, yeah.

2623
01:45:03,400 --> 01:45:05,890
And we had them for
dinner at our home.

2624
01:45:05,890 --> 01:45:07,870
And I was sitting
around the table

2625
01:45:07,870 --> 01:45:11,352
and telling Edith, look at
these beautiful children.

2626
01:45:11,352 --> 01:45:13,060
I mean, these are
supposed to be enemies?

2627
01:45:13,060 --> 01:45:15,220
This is the-- this is the enemy.

2628
01:45:15,220 --> 01:45:19,405

And to this day, we
get a note from--

2629
01:45:19,405 --> 01:45:20,650
I can't remember her name.

2630
01:45:20,650 --> 01:45:24,990

2631
01:45:24,990 --> 01:45:26,370
The Japanese girl.

2632
01:45:26,370 --> 01:45:28,700
She still writes to us.

2633
01:45:28,700 --> 01:45:33,510
So it just ends up
being such an ongoing--

2634
01:45:33,510 --> 01:45:34,740
but it wonderful, yeah.

2635
01:45:34,740 --> 01:45:36,690
It's beautiful.

2636
01:45:36,690 --> 01:45:39,490
And it made me feel very
special and very good.

2637
01:45:39,490 --> 01:45:40,950
And that's the important thing.

2638
01:45:40,950 --> 01:45:43,910

2639
01:45:43,910 --> 01:45:47,400
And the fact that I was
able to walk well and really

2640
01:45:47,400 --> 01:45:54,450
carry on my life and having
two beautiful daughters

2641
01:45:54,450 --> 01:45:55,860
and marriage.

2642
01:45:55,860 --> 01:45:58,050
When did you meet Edith?

2643
01:45:58,050 --> 01:45:59,460
1950.

2644
01:45:59,460 --> 01:46:01,440
1950.

2645
01:46:01,440 --> 01:46:03,420
1950.

2646
01:46:03,420 --> 01:46:04,920
And you've been married now?

2647
01:46:04,920 --> 01:46:06,430
66 years.

2648
01:46:06,430 --> 01:46:07,200
Congratulations.

2649
01:46:07,200 --> 01:46:09,195
November 22nd, it will be 67.

2650
01:46:09,195 --> 01:46:12,150

2651
01:46:12,150 --> 01:46:13,950
We met on a blind date.

2652
01:46:13,950 --> 01:46:15,720
Did you?

2653
01:46:15,720 --> 01:46:18,720
Lived around the corner from
each other in The Bronx.

2654

01:46:18,720 --> 01:46:21,370

2655

01:46:21,370 --> 01:46:25,350

We went to the same schools,
everything the same.

2656

01:46:25,350 --> 01:46:26,400

And we had a--

2657

01:46:26,400 --> 01:46:31,510

so that was very
special, very fortunate.

2658

01:46:31,510 --> 01:46:33,510

So you can't ask
any more than that.

2659

01:46:33,510 --> 01:46:35,100

That's it.

2660

01:46:35,100 --> 01:46:36,490

It turned out well.

2661

01:46:36,490 --> 01:46:42,318

And here I am, 91,
and I'm still walking.

2662

01:46:42,318 --> 01:46:46,530

[TAP WOOD]

2663

01:46:46,530 --> 01:46:49,230

I can't ask any more
than that either.

2664

01:46:49,230 --> 01:46:51,270

If there is something
I haven't asked,

2665

01:46:51,270 --> 01:46:54,060

then I'd be very grateful
for you to share it.

2666
01:46:54,060 --> 01:46:56,970
But thank you for sharing
your beautiful story--

2667
01:46:56,970 --> 01:46:58,890
your hard story and
a beautiful story.

2668
01:46:58,890 --> 01:47:02,060
Well, the point is, I
think it goes on and on.

2669
01:47:02,060 --> 01:47:06,090
It's a continuing--

2670
01:47:06,090 --> 01:47:06,810
Yeah.

2671
01:47:06,810 --> 01:47:08,730
--story, which is nice.

2672
01:47:08,730 --> 01:47:10,110
You meet people.

2673
01:47:10,110 --> 01:47:13,830
And you can share, and you
can reach out and help people.

2674
01:47:13,830 --> 01:47:18,930
That was my thing, really
to help-- reach out.

2675
01:47:18,930 --> 01:47:20,580
And it goes a long way.

2676
01:47:20,580 --> 01:47:22,290
That's a wonderful legacy.

2677
01:47:22,290 --> 01:47:24,450
It's a wonderful legacy.

2678

01:47:24,450 --> 01:47:28,340

It does so much
for you personally.

2679

01:47:28,340 --> 01:47:31,470

Have you ever come
across people who

2680

01:47:31,470 --> 01:47:35,100

are survivors of the war,
who have a bitterness

2681

01:47:35,100 --> 01:47:37,740

towards Germany and her allies?

2682

01:47:37,740 --> 01:47:42,480

This is why I like to tell
my story because I met people

2683

01:47:42,480 --> 01:47:46,420

like this, the
Germans, and I said,

2684

01:47:46,420 --> 01:47:48,870

you can't use a big brush.

2685

01:47:48,870 --> 01:47:54,210

I'll tell you my story and
about the Germans that I know.

2686

01:47:54,210 --> 01:47:56,010

And that's what I like to do.

2687

01:47:56,010 --> 01:48:00,120

And I feel that
maybe that'll help.

2688

01:48:00,120 --> 01:48:05,460

But just as the Germans
would say they were not--

2689

01:48:05,460 --> 01:48:07,620

would you call
these people Nazis?

2690
01:48:07,620 --> 01:48:09,090
I can't.

2691
01:48:09,090 --> 01:48:12,210
I mean, they were caught up
in a war the same way we were.

2692
01:48:12,210 --> 01:48:15,210

2693
01:48:15,210 --> 01:48:20,370
And the families
were just taken and--

2694
01:48:20,370 --> 01:48:23,040

2695
01:48:23,040 --> 01:48:25,500
they're done now.

2696
01:48:25,500 --> 01:48:27,540
So I'm delighted to
be able to share,

2697
01:48:27,540 --> 01:48:30,780
and I feel it's very important
to reach out and share

2698
01:48:30,780 --> 01:48:35,050
the story because maybe somebody
will hear it and say, hey.

2699
01:48:35,050 --> 01:48:40,080
It takes a lot, you know, when
people have experiences where

2700
01:48:40,080 --> 01:48:45,360
they've seen humanity
at its worst,

2701

01:48:45,360 --> 01:48:49,110

it is a huge thing to
ask them to trust again

2702

01:48:49,110 --> 01:48:52,050

and to have faith again.

2703

01:48:52,050 --> 01:48:56,190

And I think it can only happen
incrementally when you hear

2704

01:48:56,190 --> 01:48:59,940

a story like yours, you know.

2705

01:48:59,940 --> 01:49:04,760

And no one can prescribe
it as a path for everybody.

2706

01:49:04,760 --> 01:49:05,260

Right.

2707

01:49:05,260 --> 01:49:09,270

But it takes a while to
restore that sense of--

2708

01:49:09,270 --> 01:49:11,070

To know it can happen.

2709

01:49:11,070 --> 01:49:11,730

Yeah.

2710

01:49:11,730 --> 01:49:12,720

To know it's there.

2711

01:49:12,720 --> 01:49:13,260

Yeah.

2712

01:49:13,260 --> 01:49:14,970

Yeah.

2713

01:49:14,970 --> 01:49:18,820

So it's particularly important.

2714
01:49:18,820 --> 01:49:29,540
Well, I just-- we were in
New York with our-- one

2715
01:49:29,540 --> 01:49:35,110
of the granddaughters brought
her children to visit.

2716
01:49:35,110 --> 01:49:37,260
And her husband
worked in New York,

2717
01:49:37,260 --> 01:49:42,930
and we met them in New
York at a restaurant.

2718
01:49:42,930 --> 01:49:46,650
And we gave them--

2719
01:49:46,650 --> 01:49:48,570
my daughter's up at Cornell.

2720
01:49:48,570 --> 01:49:52,290
And we brought shirts,
Cornell shirts for them.

2721
01:49:52,290 --> 01:49:54,850
And I have a picture of them.

2722
01:49:54,850 --> 01:49:57,510
And here in the restaurant,
people are looking around,

2723
01:49:57,510 --> 01:50:00,330
and here these kids get up
and put these shirts on.

2724
01:50:00,330 --> 01:50:01,830
I felt--

2725

01:50:01,830 --> 01:50:03,210
These are the German children.

2726
01:50:03,210 --> 01:50:04,007
German children.

2727
01:50:04,007 --> 01:50:05,340
They're the great grandchildren.

2728
01:50:05,340 --> 01:50:06,793
The great grandchildren now.

2729
01:50:06,793 --> 01:50:09,120
Dr. Woll never met him.

2730
01:50:09,120 --> 01:50:10,260
That's OK.

2731
01:50:10,260 --> 01:50:11,190
That's OK.

2732
01:50:11,190 --> 01:50:13,140
Your wife is saying
that Dr. Woll never

2733
01:50:13,140 --> 01:50:15,810
met his grandchildren.

2734
01:50:15,810 --> 01:50:17,460
Do you know the year he died?

2735
01:50:17,460 --> 01:50:20,658
Do you remember what year
that would have been?

2736
01:50:20,658 --> 01:50:22,562
Would have been '54.

2737
01:50:22,562 --> 01:50:23,310
We have it.

2738

01:50:23,310 --> 01:50:24,670
You have the death certificate.

2739
01:50:24,670 --> 01:50:25,740
OK.

2740
01:50:25,740 --> 01:50:26,370
All right.

2741
01:50:26,370 --> 01:50:29,250
Well, for this part
of the interview,

2742
01:50:29,250 --> 01:50:33,540
I will say I think that
we've pretty much finished.

2743
01:50:33,540 --> 01:50:36,030
We'll film some photographs
later, you know,

2744
01:50:36,030 --> 01:50:37,620
after you bring them out.

2745
01:50:37,620 --> 01:50:40,440
But at this point,
what I'll say,

2746
01:50:40,440 --> 01:50:44,490
this concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

2747
01:50:44,490 --> 01:50:52,320
interview with Mr. Bob Levine on
April 30, 2017 in Teaneck, New

2748
01:50:52,320 --> 01:50:53,530
Jersey.

2749
01:50:53,530 --> 01:50:55,389
Thank you.

2750

01:50:55,389 --> 01:50:58,230
[APPLAUSE]

2751
01:50:58,230 --> 01:51:00,180
Beautiful.

2752
01:51:00,180 --> 01:51:00,930
OK, Bob.

2753
01:51:00,930 --> 01:51:04,140
Tell me, what is this
that you are holding?

2754
01:51:04,140 --> 01:51:10,260
This is the French medal,
honored to be given this.

2755
01:51:10,260 --> 01:51:12,870
Designed by Napoleon.

2756
01:51:12,870 --> 01:51:16,410
And it's called the
Legion of Honor.

2757
01:51:16,410 --> 01:51:18,320
And I am now a chevallier.

2758
01:51:18,320 --> 01:51:19,186
A chevallier.

2759
01:51:19,186 --> 01:51:22,290
A chevallier of France.

2760
01:51:22,290 --> 01:51:25,260
And that's the way
France honors all

2761
01:51:25,260 --> 01:51:28,290
of us who were doing the war.

2762
01:51:28,290 --> 01:51:30,450
Who liberated France.

2763
01:51:30,450 --> 01:51:31,800
You liberated France.

2764
01:51:31,800 --> 01:51:33,660
We liberated France.

2765
01:51:33,660 --> 01:51:39,300
And I'm delighted to be able
to hang this on my wall.

2766
01:51:39,300 --> 01:51:41,950
When did you get the medal?

2767
01:51:41,950 --> 01:51:44,056
About two years ago.

2768
01:51:44,056 --> 01:51:47,500
So in 2015, something like that.

2769
01:51:47,500 --> 01:51:48,070
OK.

2770
01:51:48,070 --> 01:51:50,210
Thank you very much.

2771
01:51:50,210 --> 01:51:50,890
OK.

2772
01:51:50,890 --> 01:51:51,700
So tell me.

2773
01:51:51,700 --> 01:51:53,410
Who is this handsome young guy?

2774
01:51:53,410 --> 01:51:54,610
This is Bob Levine.

2775
01:51:54,610 --> 01:51:57,100
Bob Levine, age 19.

2776
01:51:57,100 --> 01:51:59,440
OK.

2777
01:51:59,440 --> 01:52:01,290
Was this taken in
the United States?

2778
01:52:01,290 --> 01:52:03,070
Yes, it was.

2779
01:52:03,070 --> 01:52:07,390
This was when I was at
Camp Croft in my first week

2780
01:52:07,390 --> 01:52:08,800
in basic training.

2781
01:52:08,800 --> 01:52:10,460
So that's in Upstate New York.

2782
01:52:10,460 --> 01:52:10,960
No, no.

2783
01:52:10,960 --> 01:52:13,360
This is Spartanburg,
South Carolina.

2784
01:52:13,360 --> 01:52:14,030
Camp Croft.

2785
01:52:14,030 --> 01:52:14,530
OK.

2786
01:52:14,530 --> 01:52:15,363
I didn't understand.

2787
01:52:15,363 --> 01:52:16,510
Camp Croft, South Carolina.

2788
01:52:16,510 --> 01:52:17,080
Spartanburg.

2789
01:52:17,080 --> 01:52:19,090
Spartanburg, South Carolina.

2790
01:52:19,090 --> 01:52:20,260
OK.

2791
01:52:20,260 --> 01:52:21,220
Thank you.

2792
01:52:21,220 --> 01:52:23,020
Wow.

2793
01:52:23,020 --> 01:52:23,920
OK.

2794
01:52:23,920 --> 01:52:27,730
Can you tell me, who are the
two people in this photograph?

2795
01:52:27,730 --> 01:52:30,890
They are the doctor
and his wife, Maria.

2796
01:52:30,890 --> 01:52:31,390
OK.

2797
01:52:31,390 --> 01:52:32,560
Dr. Edgar Woll?

2798
01:52:32,560 --> 01:52:33,550
Dr. Edgar Woll.

2799
01:52:33,550 --> 01:52:34,420
OK.

2800
01:52:34,420 --> 01:52:37,090
And Maria de Leonardi.

2801
01:52:37,090 --> 01:52:38,193
That was her maiden name?

2802
01:52:38,193 --> 01:52:38,860
Her maiden name.

2803
01:52:38,860 --> 01:52:44,080
And do you know about when
that photograph was taken?

2804
01:52:44,080 --> 01:52:45,930
It looks well before the war.

2805
01:52:45,930 --> 01:52:47,830
I'm sure well before.

2806
01:52:47,830 --> 01:52:49,870
OK.

2807
01:52:49,870 --> 01:52:52,300
Is there anything else
you wanted to say to it?

2808
01:52:52,300 --> 01:52:54,720
OK.

2809
01:52:54,720 --> 01:52:58,950
Tell me, and who is the
picture of the young man there?

2810
01:52:58,950 --> 01:53:00,660
That is Dr. Woll.

2811
01:53:00,660 --> 01:53:02,400
OK.

2812
01:53:02,400 --> 01:53:03,030
OK.

2813
01:53:03,030 --> 01:53:06,010
It also looks like it was
taken well before the war.

2814

01:53:06,010 --> 01:53:07,230
Well before the war.

2815
01:53:07,230 --> 01:53:08,010
OK.

2816
01:53:08,010 --> 01:53:11,670
When you saw these photos,
did you recognize him?

2817
01:53:11,670 --> 01:53:12,630
Not at all.

2818
01:53:12,630 --> 01:53:13,500
Not at all.

2819
01:53:13,500 --> 01:53:14,900
Yeah.

2820
01:53:14,900 --> 01:53:16,340
All right.

2821
01:53:16,340 --> 01:53:17,480
Thank you.

2822
01:53:17,480 --> 01:53:18,170
All right.

2823
01:53:18,170 --> 01:53:22,850
So the bottom photograph,
can you tell me what that is?

2824
01:53:22,850 --> 01:53:24,650
It looks like a death
notice of some kind.

2825
01:53:24,650 --> 01:53:28,970
This is a death-- in 1954,
Dr. Woll passed away.

2826
01:53:28,970 --> 01:53:30,470
This is the death notice.

2827
01:53:30,470 --> 01:53:31,460
He died young.

2828
01:53:31,460 --> 01:53:32,900
Yes, very young.

2829
01:53:32,900 --> 01:53:35,060
Do you know from what?

2830
01:53:35,060 --> 01:53:37,160
I believe it was cancer.

2831
01:53:37,160 --> 01:53:38,390
OK.

2832
01:53:38,390 --> 01:53:39,800
I believe it was cancer.

2833
01:53:39,800 --> 01:53:41,180
OK.

2834
01:53:41,180 --> 01:53:41,690
All right.

2835
01:53:41,690 --> 01:53:44,820
Thank you very much.

2836
01:53:44,820 --> 01:53:45,740
OK.

2837
01:53:45,740 --> 01:53:49,380
So tell me, when was
this photograph taken?

2838
01:53:49,380 --> 01:53:50,180
Do you know?

2839
01:53:50,180 --> 01:53:54,470
This was taken in 1982.

2840

01:53:54,470 --> 01:53:56,550

Edith and I went back to visit.

2841

01:53:56,550 --> 01:53:57,320

OK.

2842

01:53:57,320 --> 01:53:59,090

And who is that?

2843

01:53:59,090 --> 01:54:00,740

Who is the person
in that photograph?

2844

01:54:00,740 --> 01:54:02,060

That is Bob Levine.

2845

01:54:02,060 --> 01:54:02,600

That's you.

2846

01:54:02,600 --> 01:54:07,010

Pointing to the area where
he was captured and wounded

2847

01:54:07,010 --> 01:54:13,340

and the hedgerows of Normandy
down below, on Hill 122.

2848

01:54:13,340 --> 01:54:14,810

That's Hill 122.

2849

01:54:14,810 --> 01:54:17,870

The [SPEAKING FRENCH]

2850

01:54:17,870 --> 01:54:18,800

OK.

2851

01:54:18,800 --> 01:54:19,790

OK.

2852

01:54:19,790 --> 01:54:23,140

So this is the area

where it all happened.

2853
01:54:23,140 --> 01:54:24,530
OK.

2854
01:54:24,530 --> 01:54:26,390
Thank you.

2855
01:54:26,390 --> 01:54:27,750
So we can talk.

2856
01:54:27,750 --> 01:54:28,250
All right.

2857
01:54:28,250 --> 01:54:36,140
So this is you in 1982 when
you go back with your wife.

2858
01:54:36,140 --> 01:54:40,550
And you're on Hill 122.

2859
01:54:40,550 --> 01:54:42,810
And those were the hedgerows.

2860
01:54:42,810 --> 01:54:45,630
OK.

2861
01:54:45,630 --> 01:54:46,980
Very good.

2862
01:54:46,980 --> 01:54:48,060
OK.

2863
01:54:48,060 --> 01:54:51,750
So tell me, who are the
people in this picture?

2864
01:54:51,750 --> 01:54:59,140
This is Gabriela, Dr. Woll's
daughter with Bob Levine.

2865

01:54:59,140 --> 01:54:59,850
OK.

2866
01:54:59,850 --> 01:55:03,660
When he was little
younger, a little heavier.

2867
01:55:03,660 --> 01:55:05,940
And about what year
would that have been?

2868
01:55:05,940 --> 01:55:07,170
1995.

2869
01:55:07,170 --> 01:55:08,280
Something like that, yeah?

2870
01:55:08,280 --> 01:55:10,290
In that area.

2871
01:55:10,290 --> 01:55:13,710
And they hadn't known this
about their father, had they?

2872
01:55:13,710 --> 01:55:14,220
No.

2873
01:55:14,220 --> 01:55:16,290
Neither his son
nor his daughter.

2874
01:55:16,290 --> 01:55:19,530
This was new to them, yes.

2875
01:55:19,530 --> 01:55:22,020
It must have been quite
a special gift to them.

2876
01:55:22,020 --> 01:55:25,260
And it made, I think,
very, very proud

2877

01:55:25,260 --> 01:55:28,110
and gave us a
special relationship.

2878
01:55:28,110 --> 01:55:29,940
That's what it was.

2879
01:55:29,940 --> 01:55:31,770
We had a--

2880
01:55:31,770 --> 01:55:32,720
Thank you.

2881
01:55:32,720 --> 01:55:35,420
--a little more than friendship.

2882
01:55:35,420 --> 01:55:36,210
OK.

2883
01:55:36,210 --> 01:55:39,270
So tell me, what is
this photograph about?

2884
01:55:39,270 --> 01:55:41,160
There are so many people in it.

2885
01:55:41,160 --> 01:55:46,890
This is the 100th birthday
of Dr. Woll's widow.

2886
01:55:46,890 --> 01:55:51,000
100th birthday, with the
whole family surrounding her.

2887
01:55:51,000 --> 01:55:52,300
And they sent that to you.

2888
01:55:52,300 --> 01:55:53,070
Yes.

2889
01:55:53,070 --> 01:55:56,310
And is she in front

with her two children?

2890
01:55:56,310 --> 01:55:57,060
Correct.

2891
01:55:57,060 --> 01:55:58,800
And so that means
his two children.

2892
01:55:58,800 --> 01:55:59,608
Yes, yes.

2893
01:55:59,608 --> 01:56:00,900
And then all the grandchildren.

2894
01:56:00,900 --> 01:56:02,730
When did she pass away?

2895
01:56:02,730 --> 01:56:06,060
Just last year, I believe.

2896
01:56:06,060 --> 01:56:06,900
Yeah.

2897
01:56:06,900 --> 01:56:08,670
Just a little past her--

2898
01:56:08,670 --> 01:56:10,980
And this photo is dated when?

2899
01:56:10,980 --> 01:56:13,140
Does it have a date?

2900
01:56:13,140 --> 01:56:13,770
'13.

2901
01:56:13,770 --> 01:56:14,910
2013.

2902
01:56:14,910 --> 01:56:16,950
2013.

2903
01:56:16,950 --> 01:56:18,210
OK.

2904
01:56:18,210 --> 01:56:19,050
All right.

2905
01:56:19,050 --> 01:56:25,800
So what is that piece of
writing that we are seeing here?

2906
01:56:25,800 --> 01:56:31,140
This is a copy of the note
that Dr. Woll left in my pocket

2907
01:56:31,140 --> 01:56:33,090
after the operation.

2908
01:56:33,090 --> 01:56:35,770
I see, and it's stamped as well.

2909
01:56:35,770 --> 01:56:41,530
So it says 11th of July, 1944.

2910
01:56:41,530 --> 01:56:42,030
All right.

2911
01:56:42,030 --> 01:56:45,300
And that's the note that
your father's colleague

2912
01:56:45,300 --> 01:56:48,930
from his office then
translated for you.

2913
01:56:48,930 --> 01:56:50,480
OK.